

**UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C.**

**In the Matter of**

**CERTAIN VEHICLE SPACE GUARDS**

**Inv. No. 337-TA-1509**

**NOTICE OF INSTITUTION OF INVESTIGATION**

Institution of investigation pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 1337

AGENCY: U.S. International Trade Commission

ACTION: Notice

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that a complaint was filed with the U.S. International Trade Commission on June 1, 2026, under section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, on behalf of Johnathan Black Kotyk of Atlantic Beach, Florida. An amended complaint was filed on June 17, 2026, and a supplement was filed on June 22, 2026. The amended complaint, as supplemented, alleges violations of section 337 based upon the importation into the United States, the sale for importation, and the sale within the United States after importation of certain vehicle space guards by reason of the infringement of certain claims of U.S. Patent No. 7,527,314 (“the ’314 patent”). The amended complaint, as supplemented, further alleges that an industry in the United States exists as required by the applicable Federal Statute.

The complainant requests that the Commission institute an investigation and, after the investigation, issue a limited exclusion order and cease and desist orders.

ADDRESSES: The amended complaint, except for any confidential information contained therein, may be viewed on the Commission’s electronic docket (EDIS) at <https://edis.usitc.gov>. For help accessing EDIS, please email [EDIS3Help@usitc.gov](mailto:EDIS3Help@usitc.gov). Hearing impaired individuals are advised that information on this matter can be obtained by contacting the Commission’s TDD terminal on (202) 205-1810. Persons with mobility impairments who will need special assistance in gaining access to the Commission should contact the Office of the Secretary at (202) 205-2000. General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its internet server at <https://www.usitc.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pathenia M. Proctor, The Office of Unfair Import Investigations, U.S. International Trade Commission, telephone (202) 205-2560.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

AUTHORITY: The authority for institution of this investigation is contained in section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, 19 U.S.C. 1337, and in section 210.10 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 19 CFR 210.10 (2025).

SCOPE OF INVESTIGATION: Having considered the amended complaint, the U.S. International Trade Commission, on July 1, 2026, ORDERED THAT –

(1) Pursuant to subsection (b) of section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, an investigation be instituted to determine whether there is a violation of subsection (a)(1)(B) of section 337 in the importation into the United States, the sale for importation, or the sale within the United States after importation of certain products identified in paragraph (2) by reason of infringement of one or more of claims 1-4, 6, 8-12, 14-16, and 18-19 of the '314 patent, and whether an industry in the United States exists as required by subsection (a)(2) of section 337;

(2) Pursuant to section 210.10(b)(1) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 19 CFR 210.10(b)(1), the plain language description of the accused products or category of accused products, which defines the scope of the investigation, is "vehicle space guards having attachment means for car seats";

(3) For the purpose of the investigation so instituted, the following are hereby named as parties upon which this notice of investigation shall be served:

(a) The complainant is:

Jonathan Black Kotyk  
162 Magnolia Street  
Atlantic Beach, FL 32233

(b) The respondents are the following entities alleged to be in violation of section 337, and are the parties upon which the complaint is to be served:

Drop Stop, LLC  
1925 Century Park East 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90067

The Container Store, Inc.  
500 Freeport Parkway  
Coppell, Texas 75019

Walmart, Inc.  
702 SW 8th Street  
Bentonville, AR 72716

232 Technologies Inc

1988 Ocean Pkwy  
Brooklyn, NY 11223

Sportman's Market Inc. (Sporty's)  
Clermont County/Sporty's Airport  
2001 Sporty's Drive  
Batavia, Ohio 45103-9719

(c) The Office of Unfair Import Investigations, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, S.W., Suite 401, Washington, D.C. 20436; and

(4) For the investigation so instituted, the Chief Administrative Law Judge, U.S. International Trade Commission, shall designate the presiding Administrative Law Judge.

Responses to the amended complaint and the notice of investigation must be submitted by the named respondents in accordance with section 210.13 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 19 CFR 210.13. Pursuant to 19 CFR 201.16(e) and 210.13(a), such responses will be considered by the Commission if received not later than 20 days after the date of service by the Commission of the amended complaint and the notice of investigation. Extensions of time for submitting responses to the amended complaint and the notice of investigation will not be granted unless good cause therefor is shown.

Failure of a respondent to file a timely response to each allegation in the amended complaint and in this notice may be deemed to constitute a waiver of the right to appear and contest the allegations of the amended complaint and this notice, and to authorize the administrative law judge and the Commission, without further notice to the respondent, to find the facts to be as alleged in the amended complaint and this notice and to enter an initial determination and a final determination containing such findings, and may result in the issuance of an exclusion order or a cease and desist order or both directed against the respondent.

By order of the Commission.



Lisa R. Barton  
Secretary to the Commission

Issued: July 1, 2026