

Supporting Statement and supplemental guidance, which are the standard mechanisms for providing the level of detail the commenters seek.

Conclusion

The Department thanks the Council for Global Equality, Professor Herd, and Professor Moynihan.

Ryan H. Leppert,

Chief of Staff, Office of the Under Secretary for Foreign Assistance, Humanitarian Affairs, and Religious Freedom, U.S. Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2026–21756 Filed 10–23–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710–05–P

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Request for Comments on Further Suspension of Section 301 Action: China's Targeting of the Maritime, Logistics, and Shipbuilding Sectors for Dominance

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR).

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: To allow for further negotiation with China regarding the acts, policies, and practices at issue in this investigation, the U.S. Trade Representative (Trade Representative) is proposing to modify the action taken in this investigation to further suspend that action for two months, through January 9, 2027. This notice invites public comment from interested parties on the proposed modification.

DATES:

October 23, 2026, 9:00 a.m. Eastern Time: Comment period opens.

October 30, 2026, 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time: To be assured of consideration, submit written comments regarding the proposed modification of the action by this date.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Philip Butler, Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Monitoring and Enforcement; Thomas Au, Senior Counsel for Industrial Policy; or David Salkeld, Associate General Counsel at (202) 395–5725.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

For background on the proceedings in this investigation, please see the prior notices issued in this investigation, including 89 FR 29424 (April 22, 2024), 90 FR 8089 (January 23, 2025), 90 FR 10843 (February 27, 2025), 90 FR 17114 (April 23, 2025) (April 23, 2025 notice), 90 FR 24856 (June 12, 2025), 90 FR

48320 (October 16, 2025) (October 16, 2025 notice); 90 FR 50762 (November 10, 2025) (November 10, 2025 notice), and 90 FR 50947 (November 13, 2025) (November 13, 2025 notice).

On April 17, 2025, pursuant to sections 301(b), 301(c), and 304(a) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2411(b), 2411(c), and 2414(a)), and following consideration of public comments, as well as consultations with advisory committees and the Section 301 Committee, the Trade Representative determined to take action in this investigation. *See* April 23, 2025 notice.

On November 1, 2025, the White House announced a historic trade and economic deal reached between President Trump and President Xi Jinping of China.¹ Pursuant to this deal, the United States would suspend for one year, beginning on November 10, 2025, the responsive actions taken in this investigation. This period would allow the United States to negotiate with China pursuant to Section 301 regarding the issues raised in this investigation as well as to continue U.S. domestic efforts and discussions with key allies and partners on revitalizing American shipbuilding.

On November 6, 2025, pursuant to this deal, the Trade Representative, at the direction of the President, proposed to suspend for one year, beginning on November 10, 2025, the responsive actions taken in this investigation. *See* November 10, 2025 notice.

Following consideration of public comments and advice from the Section 301 Committee, the Trade Representative suspended the actions in this investigation from 12:01 a.m. Eastern Time on November 10, 2025, through 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on November 9, 2026. *See* November 13, 2025 notice.

II. Request for Comments

The United States is continuing to engage with China with the goal of obtaining the elimination of the acts, policies, and practices at issue in the investigation. The Trade Representative is therefore proposing to further suspend for two months, through January 9, 2027, the responsive actions taken in this investigation. The Trade Representative is requesting comments from any interested person regarding the proposal to suspend the responsive actions from 12:00 a.m. Eastern Time on

November 10, 2026, through 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on January 9, 2027.

During the suspension period, no party would accrue liability for or be required to pay the fees on maritime transport services under Annexes I, II, or III of the April 23, 2025 notice, as modified by the October 16, 2025 notice. Further, during the suspension period, no party would accrue liability for or be required to pay the duties provided in Annex V.A of the October 16, 2025 notice.

III. Request for Public Comments

In accordance with Section 307(a)(2) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2417(a)(2)), USTR invites comments from interested persons with respect to the proposed modification to further suspend the action as described in Section II above. To be assured of consideration, you must submit written comments on the proposed modification by October 30, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

IV. Procedures for Written Comments

You must submit written comments using docket number USTR–2026–0694 on the electronic portal at <https://comments.ustr.gov/s/>. To submit written comments, use the docket on the portal entitled “Request for Comments on Further Suspension of Section 301 Action: China's Targeting of the Maritime, Logistics, and Shipbuilding Sectors for Dominance.”

You do not need to establish an account to submit comments. The first screen of each docket allows you to enter identification and contact information. Third party organizations such as law firms, trade associations, or customs brokers, should identify the full legal name of the organization they represent, and identify the primary point of contact for the submission. Information fields are optional; however, your comment or request may not be considered if insufficient information is provided. Fields with a gray Business Confidential Information (BCI) notation are for BCI information which will not be made publicly available. Fields with a green (Public) notation will be viewable by the public.

After entering the identification and contact information, you can complete the remainder of the comment, or any portion of it by clicking ‘Next.’ You may upload documents at the end of the form and indicate whether USTR should treat the documents as business confidential or public information.

Any page containing BCI must be clearly marked ‘BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL’ on the top of that page and the submission should clearly indicate, via brackets, highlighting, or

¹ Fact Sheet, The White House, President Donald J. Trump Strikes Deal on Economic and Trade Relations with China (Nov. 1, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/fact-sheets/2025/11/fact-sheet-president-donald-j-trump-strikes-deal-on-economic-and-trade-relations-with-china/>.

other means, the specific information that is BCI. If you request business confidential treatment, you must certify in writing that disclosure of the information would endanger trade secrets or profitability, and that the information would not customarily be released to the public.

Parties uploading attachments containing BCI also must submit a public version of their comments. If these procedures are not sufficient to protect BCI or otherwise protect business interests, please contact the USTR Section 301 support line at (202) 395-5725 to discuss whether alternative arrangements are possible.

USTR will post attachments uploaded to the docket for public inspection, except for properly designated BCI. You can view submissions on USTR's electronic portal at <https://comments.ustr.gov/s/> by entering docket number USTR-2026-0694 in the search field on the home page.

Jennifer Thornton,

General Counsel, Office of the United States Trade Representative.

[FR Doc. 2026-21755 Filed 10-23-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3390-F4-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA-2026-3730]

Parts and Accessories Necessary for Safe Operation; Application for an Exemption From R.B. Stewart Petroleum Products, Inc., USDOT # 1290158

AGENCY: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of application for exemption; request for comments.

SUMMARY: FMCSA requests public comment on an application from R.B. Stewart Petroleum Products, Inc., USDOT No. 1290158, (R.B. Stewart) for an exemption from the requirement that lighting devices be steady burning. The exemption would allow the company to operate commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) equipped with a module manufactured by Intellistop, Inc. (Intellistop) which pulses the rear clearance, identification, and brake lamps from low-level lighting intensity to high-level lighting intensity 4 times in 2 seconds when the brakes are applied, and then return the lights to a steady-burning state while the brakes remain engaged. FMCSA requests public

comment on the applicant's request for exemption.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before November 25, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by Docket Number FMCSA-2026-3730 by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* www.regulations.gov. See the Public Participation and Request for Comments section below for further information.
- *Mail:* Dockets Operations, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, W58-213, West Building, Washington, DC 20590-0001.
- *Hand Delivery or Courier:* 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, W58-213, West Building, Washington, DC 20590-0001, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.
- *Fax:* (202) 493-2251.

Each submission must include the Agency name and the docket number (FMCSA-2026-3730) for this notice. Note that DOT posts all comments received without change to www.regulations.gov, including any personal information included in a comment. Please see the Privacy Act heading below.

Privacy Act: In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31315(b), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its exemption process. DOT posts these comments, including any personal information the commenter provides, to www.regulations.gov, as described in the system of records notice DOT/ALL-14 FDMS (Federal Docket Management System (FDMS)), which can be reviewed at <https://www.transportation.gov/individuals/privacy/privacy-act-system-records-notices>. The comments are posted without edit and are searchable by the name of the submitter.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. David Sutula, Chief, Vehicle and Roadside Operations Division, Office of Carrier, Driver, and Vehicle Safety, FMCSA; MCPSV@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Public Participation and Request for Comments

FMCSA encourages you to participate by submitting comments and related materials.

A. Submitting Comments

If you submit a comment, please include the docket number for this notice (FMCSA-2026-3730), indicate the specific section of this document to which the comment applies, and provide a reason for your suggestions or recommendations. You may submit your comments and material online or

by fax, mail, or hand delivery, but please use only one of these means. FMCSA recommends that you include your name and a mailing address, an email address, or a phone number in the body of your document so the Agency can contact you if it has questions regarding your submission.

To submit your comment online, go to <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/FMCSA-2026-3730/document>, click on this notice, click "Comment," and type your comment into the text box on the following screen.

If you submit your comments by mail or hand delivery, submit them in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing.

FMCSA will consider all comments and material received during the comment period. Comments received after the comment closing date will be filed in the public docket and will be considered to the extent practicable.

B. Confidential Business Information (CBI)

CBI is commercial or financial information that is both customarily and actually treated as private by its owner. Under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552), CBI is exempt from public disclosure. If your comments responsive to the notice contain commercial or financial information that is customarily treated as private, that you actually treat as private, and that is relevant or responsive to the notice, it is important that you clearly designate the submitted comments as CBI. Please mark each page of your submission that constitutes CBI as "PROPIN" to indicate it contains proprietary information. FMCSA will treat such marked submissions as confidential under the Freedom of Information Act, and they will not be placed in the public docket of the notice. Submissions containing CBI should be sent to Sarah Stella, Chief, Regulatory Development Division, Office of Policy, FMCSA, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590-0001 or via email at sarah.stella@dot.gov. At this time, you need not send a duplicate hardcopy of your electronic CBI submissions to FMCSA headquarters. Any comments FMCSA receives not specifically designated as CBI will be placed in the public docket for this notice.

C. Viewing Comments and Documents

To view comments, as well as any documents mentioned in this preamble as being available in the docket, go to <https://www.regulations.gov>, insert FMCSA-2026-3730 in the keyword box,