

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMPETITION

NOTICE 2944 OF 2025

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION

CUSTOMS TARIFF APPLICATIONSLIST 01/2025

The International Trade Administration Commission (herein after referred to as ITAC or the Commission) has received the following application concerning the Customs Tariff. Any objection to or comment on this representation should be submitted to the Chief Commissioner, ITAC, Private Bag X753, Pretoria, 0001. Attention is drawn to the fact that the rate of duty mentioned in this application is that requested by the applicant and that the Commission may, depending on its findings, recommend a lower or higher rate of duty.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

The submission of confidential information to the Commission in connection with customs tariff applications is governed by section 3 of the Tariff Investigations Regulations, which regulations can be found on ITAC's website at <http://www.itac.org.za/documents/R.397.pdf>.

These regulations require that if any information is considered to be confidential, then a non-confidential version of the information must be submitted, simultaneously with the confidential version. In submitting a non-confidential version the regulations are strictly applicable and require parties to indicate:

- ☐ *Each instance where confidential information has been omitted and the reasons for confidentiality;*
- ☐ *A summary of the confidential information which permits other interested parties a reasonable understanding of the substance of the confidential information; and*
- ☐ *In exceptional cases, where information is not susceptible to summary, reasons must be submitted to this effect.*

This rule applies to all parties and to all correspondence with and submissions to the Commission, which unless clearly indicated to be confidential, will be made available to other interested parties.

The Commission will disregard any information indicated to be confidential that is not accompanied by a proper non-confidential summary or the aforementioned reasons.

If a party considers that any document of another party, on which that party is submitting representations, does not comply with the above rules and that such deficiency affects that party's ability to make meaningful representations, the details of the deficiency and the reasons why that party's rights are so affected must be submitted to the commission in writing forthwith (and at the latest 14 days prior to the date on which that party's submission is due).

Failure to do so timeously will seriously hamper the proper administration of the investigation, and such party will not be able to subsequently claim an inability to make meaningful representations on the basis of the failure of such other party to meet the requirements.

APPLICATION FOR AN INCREASE IN THE RATE OF CUSTOMS DUTY ON:

Steel shoulder couplers, classifiable under tariff subheadings 7307.11.90, 7307.19.80 & 7307.19.90 by way of creating additional 8-digit subheadings from free or 10% *ad valorem* to the WTO bound rate of 15 per cent *ad valorem*.

APPLICANT:**Rand York Castings (Pty) Ltd**

Suite 33 Umhlanga Plaza
4 Lagoon Drive
Umhlanga Rocks
Durban
4051

ITAC Ref: 16/2024 **Enquiries:** Mr Jacob Mtimkulu, Email: jmtimkulu@itac.org.za and Mr. Sipho Tshabalala, Email: stshabalala@itac.org.za

AS MOTIVATION FOR THE APPLICATION, THE APPLICANT SUBMITTED, *INTER ALIA*, THAT:

The downstream steel industry has been under significant distress for an extended period, primarily due to the influx of low-priced imports from China and other Asian countries. To address this challenge, it is crucial to increase the customs duty on the relevant tariff subheadings to the WTO-bound rate of 15%. Such an adjustment would play a vital role in enhancing the domestic industry's price competitiveness against the relentless pressure from lower-priced imports.

This measure would not only help safeguard the current employment levels in the industry but also create an environment conducive to job growth and encourage investment in modernising plant and equipment. The urgency of this intervention is underscored by the loss already experienced in the grooved coupling sector within the SACU region, where import competition has led to the complete collapse of domestic manufacturing.

The domestic industry now faces a similar threat in the shouldered coupling sector, as import volumes remain at unsustainable levels. Without immediate action to curb these imports, the domestic manufacturing industry risks the same fate.

PUBLICATION PERIOD:

Representation should be submitted to the above ITAC officials within **four (4) weeks** of the date of this notice.