Safeguard import duties for certain agri-food products

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Proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 as regards the school fruit, vegetables and milk scheme ('EU school scheme'), sectoral interventions, the creation of a protein sector, requirements for hemp, the possibility for marketing standards for cheese, protein crops and meat, application of additional import duties, rules on the availability of supplies in time of emergencies and severe crisis and securities

What is changing and why?

Currently the European Union (EU) can put in place additional import duties, known as "safeguard duties", only where imports are likely to disturb the EU market (for example by causing significant price rises or falls on internal or external markets). As disturbance on the market is difficult to prove in practice, the European Commission proposes to simplify the rules by removing this condition.

The Commission also proposes to clarify how the volume of imports that can trigger the introduction of import tariffs is calculated. The reference point for calculating trigger volumes will be based on average yearly imports from the preceding 3 years (see Table 1).

These changes will align EU rules with obligations under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Agriculture.

Timeline

The proposed rules will be adopted by late 2026/early 2027.

For more information see the full record on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and search the database.

Tables & Figures

Table 1 Trigger volumes permitting additional safeguard duties	
Volume of all imports of a product as share of EU consumption (%)	Trigger volume (% of average yearly imports)[1]
≤10	125
>10 to ≤30	110
>30	105

1. Based on data for the 3 preceding years.
Examples:
If imports of a product = 100 kt and EU consumption = 1000 kt, then
imports/consumption = 100/1000 = 10% (column 1), so trigger volume = 125% of average yearly imports = 125 kt (column 2).
If imports = 100 kt and EU consumption = 500 kt, then
imports/consumption = 100/500 = 20%, so trigger volume = 110% of average yearly imports = 110 kt.

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Source: Art. 1(25) of the Proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation 1308/2013