



Office of the U.S. Trade Representative

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Enforcement Update: United States Wins Dispute Over China's Discrimination Against U.S. Financial Service Companies



August 31 - On August 31, 2012, United States Trade Representative Ron Kirk announced that the United States prevailed in the dispute regarding China's discrimination against U.S. and other non-Chinese suppliers of electronic payment services. On August 31, the World Trade Organization adopted the Panel Report findings in favor of the United States. According to Ambassador Kirk, the WTO's decision is a "message to the Government of China...that those practices must end." The Industry estimates that removal of China's restrictions could potentially lead to the creation of 6,000 jobs.

The Panel's final report, which China did not appeal, was originally circulated on July 16, 2012 and adopted by the WTO on August 31. According to WTO rules, within 30 days China must formally state whether it intends to comply with the findings in the Panel Report.

United States Challenges Argentina's Widespread Use of Trade Restrictions

August 21 - On August 21, 2012, United States Trade Representative Ron Kirk announced that the U.S. Government requested consultations with the Government of Argentina regarding trade restrictive measures applied to all goods imported into Argentina that appear to be inconsistent with World Trade Organization (WTO) rules. These measures include the broad use of non-transparent import licensing requirements, such as ones obliging importers to agree to export as much as they import.

Since 2008, Argentina has greatly expanded the list of products subject to non-automatic import licensing requirements, affecting products such as laptops, autos and auto parts, toys, luggage, and others. In February 2012, Argentina adopted an additional licensing requirement that applies to all imports of goods into the country. As a result of these licensing requirements, companies seeking authorization to import to Argentina must agree to unfavorable concessions, such as making investments in Argentina, making exports of equal value, and lowering prices of imported goods. Such measures violate Article XI:1 of GATT 1994, which generally prohibits restrictions on imports of goods, including those made effective through import licenses. The United States, Japan, and the European Union have all requested consultations with Argentina on the matter. If the issue is not resolved through consultations within 60 days, the establishment of a WTO dispute settlement panel can be requested.

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			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 File U.S. appellate submission in China GOES	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 File consultations request with Argentina on Import Licensing	22	23 China Autos AD/CVD Consultations	24	25
26	27 China GOES Appellate Hearing	28 China GOES Appellate Hearing	29	30 Consultations request received from Argentina on beef	31 DSB Meeting	

Legend	Consultations	Panel	Appellate Body	Implementation	Other
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Note: the calendar above is a projection of selected expected events and is subject to change.
