



Canadian Printing Industries Association
Association canadienne de l'imprimerie

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Information about the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) and the “informational materials” exemption

In support of our members, we have compiled the following points concerning anticipated US import tariffs.

The information provided below is publicly available and subject to change. It is meant to educate print industry members on the current framework for the US export tariffs which were briefly imposed at the beginning of March 2025 and expected to be re-imposed on April 2, 2025.

We recommend all businesses obtain legal advice from counsel and guidance from their respective US customs-brokers to ensure all shipments are compliant with the current regulations.

What is the IEEPA?

- The International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) is a United States federal law enacted on October 28, 1977, that grants the President broad authority to regulate international commerce after declaring a national emergency in response to unusual and extraordinary threats to the nation's security, foreign policy, or economy.
- It empowers the President to examine, regulate, or prohibit foreign economic transactions, block assets, and freeze transactions to address identified threats
- The Act applies to threats that originate wholly or substantially outside the United States
- The IEEPA does not grant authority to regulate or prohibit personal communications, imports/exports of informational materials, or transactions related to travel
- The Act falls under the National Emergencies Act (NEA), requiring annual renewal of declared emergencies



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- IEEPA was enacted to clarify and restrict presidential powers during national emergencies, replacing broader authorities previously granted under the Trading with the Enemy Act of 1917
- It serves as the foundation for much of the U.S. sanctions regime administered by the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) and export control regulations managed by the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS)

What is the “informational materials” exemption?

- The informational materials exemption is a specific exclusion from the IEEPA tariffs imposed on goods from Canada, Mexico, and China.
- This exemption is based on statutory limitations in the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) itself
- The exemption covers a wide range of informational materials, including but not limited to: Publications, Films, Posters, Photographs, Microfilms and microfiche, Phonograph records, Tapes and compact disks, CD ROMs, Artworks, News wire feeds
- The exemption applies regardless of the format or medium of transmission
- Both commercial and non-commercial imports of these materials are exempt
- This exemption is designed to protect the free flow of information and cultural materials across borders, even during times of economic restrictions
- Importers must use specific HTSUS Chapter 99 codes when filing entries to claim this exemption
- While broad, the exemption does not cover all information-related products. The exact boundaries of what qualifies may be subject to interpretation and potential legal challenges
- It's important to note that while this exemption provides significant protection for informational and cultural materials, its application in the context of these new tariffs may require further clarification from customs authorities

The CPIA will endeavor to provide its members with relevant information regarding the current trade dispute between the US and Canada. The CPIA will not accept responsibility for failure to review the information provided with your legal advisors and local customs brokers for confirmation on correct application and implementation.