



PRESS RELEASE

North American Aluminum Associations Call for Increased Import Monitoring *Summit in Mexico City Also Emphasizes Tariff-Free Trade, Strengthened Trade Enforcement*

Mexico City (November 15, 2023) – The Aluminum Association, Instituto Mexicano del Aluminio and the Aluminium Association of Canada called for continued tariff-free trade, increased import monitoring and stronger trade enforcement in a letter to trade officials in Canada, Mexico and the United States. The letter came ahead of a summit today in Mexico City highlighting the past and future of the North American aluminum trading relationship.

“For decades, our industries have relied on cross-border trade within the North American region to help make some of the highest quality and lowest carbon aluminum and aluminum products in the world. Indeed, Canada and Mexico are the United States’ first and second largest aluminum trading partners, respectively. In 2022, our nations traded more than \$47 billion worth of aluminum and aluminum products across the region,” the letter notes.

The North American aluminum industry is calling for several actions ahead of a mandated review of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) in 2026:

Continued Tariff-Free Trade in North America: The continued tariff-free trade of aluminum within North America is critical to the industries in all three of our countries. The integrated market allows each country to focus on its respective competitive advantages while benefiting from the unique strengths offered by aluminum firms in the other countries. Maintaining Section 232 aluminum tariff exemptions for Canada and Mexico benefit the sector across North America. The filing of a 15-country trade case, which includes Mexico, by a subsection of U.S. aluminum extrusion producers threatens to overshadow the longstanding coordination and partnership between the aluminum industries in the three countries.

Increased Regional Aluminum Import Monitoring: Under the terms of the agreement removing Section 232 tariffs in favor of the USMCA, each country agreed to “establish an agreed-upon process for monitoring aluminum and steel trade between them.” In subsequent years, both the United States and Canada have stood up new or enhanced aluminum import monitoring programs, but Mexico has not. We urge the Mexican government to promptly implement such a program to meet the mutual commitment under the Section 232 exemption joint letter.

Strengthened Regional Trade Enforcement: Across the region, it is essential that we work to combat the unfair and illegal trade of aluminum which has challenged the global industry in recent years. Both the United States and Mexico were the victims of a significant aluminum transshipment scheme in the mid-2010s in which massive volumes of Chinese aluminum billet was disguised as a different product to avoid hundreds of millions in tariffs. Both the United States and Mexico have pursued successful antidumping and countervailing duty (AD/CVD) cases against unfairly traded Chinese aluminum over the past several years. Continued vigilance and enforcement of global trade laws in the sector is needed.



Full Support of the Aluminum Sustainability Agenda: Our governments must continue to support industry in its pursuit of decarbonization efforts and the broader aluminum sustainability agenda. This support may include research for next generation production techniques and increased recycling efforts. Aluminum produced in North America is some of the cleanest in the world, with carbon emissions for an average pound of aluminum made in the region declining more than 50% since 1991. Aluminum is vital to the green energy transition in transportation, construction, packaging and more.

In 2019, the aluminum associations of North America jointly supported the removal of Section 232 tariffs on aluminum imports within the region. These tariffs were removed in favor of the USMCA, which was formally implemented in 2020. The agreement is subject to a mandatory 6-year review for potential renewal in 2026. The early stages of this review will begin as early as next year.

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About the Aluminium Association of Canada

Founded in 1990, the Aluminium Association of Canada (AAC) represents the three Canadian world-class aluminium producers: Alcoa, Alouette, and Rio Tinto. Operating nine smelters in Canada, eight of which in Quebec, they employ over 8,500 workers, producing more than 80% of North America's primary metal, with \$10.2 billion in exports, mainly to the United States. The AAC and its members are active in the development of best practices in health and safety and responsible low CO₂ production. For more information, visit aluminium.ca or Twitter [@AAC_aluminium](https://twitter.com/AAC_aluminium).