July 17, 2026 | USTR Finalizes Brazil Section 301 Tariff & USITC Launches Section 201 Investigation on Lamb Imports

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) has finalized its Section 301 action on imports from Brazil, imposing a 25% tariff on many Brazilian products beginning July 22, 2026.

What This Means for Meat Importers

The good news: Brazilian beef remains exempt from the new tariff action. USTR maintained the exemption for beef products included in the Annex, preserving access to an important supply source for U.S. importers and manufacturers.

The disappointing news: MICA's request to expand the Annex to include additional products critical to the U.S. meat industry was not granted.
During the public comment process, MICA urged USTR to exempt the following products due to the lack of available domestic supplies:

- HTSUS 0504.00.00.40 – Prepared sausage casings
- HTSUS 3503.00.55.10 – Edible gelatin
- HTSUS 3504.00.10 – Protein isolates (used for collagen peptides)

MICA also requested that USTR maintain the existing exemption for beef products while expanding the Annex to include these additional items.
While USTR did maintain the exemption for beef, it did not include gelatin, collagen, or beef casings in the final Annex, meaning these products remain subject to the new Section 301 tariff.

MICA Will Continue to Advocate for Members
MICA remains committed to advocating for practical trade policies that recognize the realities of the U.S. supply chain. The products identified in MICA's comments are not available in sufficient quantities from domestic sources to meet U.S. demand, making imported supplies essential for many manufacturers.

We will continue engaging with USTR and other policymakers on behalf of the meat importing industry and will keep members informed of any future developments.

The **U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC)** has officially **instituted Investigation No. TA-201-89, Lamb Meat**, following a recommendation from the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) to initiate a global safeguard investigation under Sections 201 and 202 of the Trade Act of 1974.

The investigation stems from a safeguard petition filed by the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI), which alleges that increased lamb imports have caused serious injury to the domestic sheep industry.

What This Means for Meat Importers

At this stage, no new tariffs or import restrictions have been imposed. The USITC investigation will determine whether increased imports are a substantial cause of serious injury to the domestic industry. If the Commission makes an affirmative determination, it may recommend safeguard measures to the President, including tariffs, tariff-rate quotas, or other import restrictions.

The USITC launched the investigation yesterday, and the process will now move forward with data collection, requests for information, and a public hearing before the Commission reaches its determination.

The Federal Register Notice is still pending.

Action Requested

If your company imports lamb from the following countries please contact the listed representative as soon as possible.

- Australia, Paul DeSilva, Meat & Livestock Australia
- New Zealand, Jason Frost, Beef & Lamb New Zealand
- United Kingdom, Jennifer Groover, British Embassy Washington DC

The USITC is currently seeking public input on its draft questionnaires. Comments must be submitted electronically through the Commission's Electronic Document Information System (EDIS) by 5:15 p.m. ET on July 21, 2026. Once finalized, the questionnaires will be used to collect information from U.S. producers, importers, purchasers, and foreign producers as part of the investigation. Read more

MICA is gathering information from affected members and will continue to monitor the investigation closely. We will keep members informed of key deadlines, opportunities to participate in the proceeding, and any developments that could impact lamb imports.