Washington, D.C. Update: Federal Government Policy Developments

Prepared by The Franklin Partnership, LLC June 24, 2022







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Nothing contained in here shall be deemed legal or financial advice.





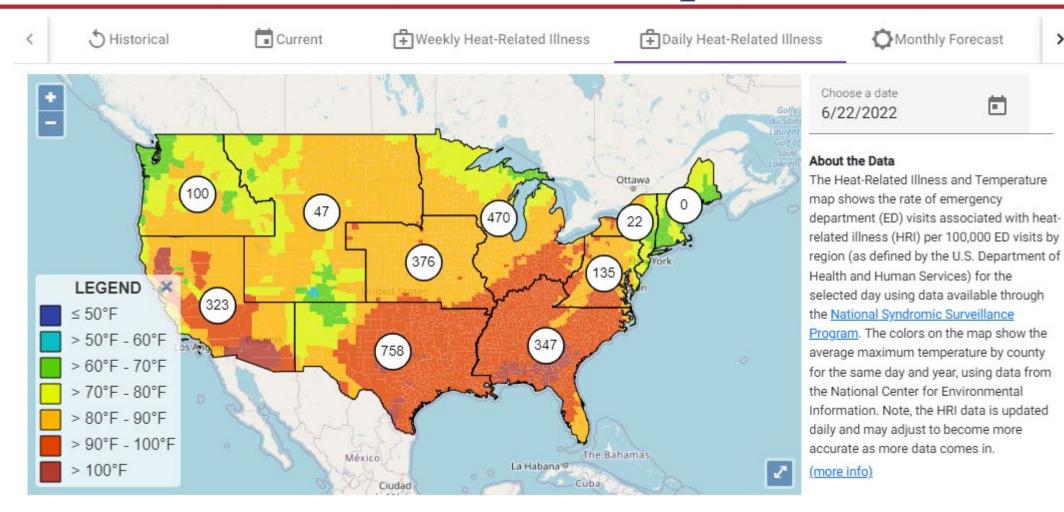


- Federal Agency Regulatory Activity
- List of Future Regulations Issued
- Update on Competition, Supply Chain Bill

All information presented as of June 23, 2022

Recent Regulatory Actions

CDC Heath Illness Tracker Updated



>

https://ephtracking.cdc.gov/Applications/heatTracker/

June 22, 2022

New OSHA Heat Prevention Webpage

Heat Illness Prevention

Heat General Education Employer's Responsibility Worker Information



Every year, dozens of workers die and thousands more become ill while working in hot or humid conditions. The OSHA Heat Illness Prevention campaign educates employers and workers on the dangers of working in the heat.

https://www.osha.gov/heat

June 9, 2022

New OSHA Heat Prevention Webpage

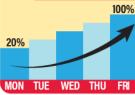


Prevent Heat Illness at Work

Outdoor and indoor heat exposure can be dangerous.

Ways to Protect Yourself and Others

Ease into Work. Nearly 3 out of 4 fatalities from heat illness happen during the first week of work.



- **Vew** and **returning** workers need to build tolerance to heat (acclimatize) and take frequent breaks.
- Follow the 20% Rule. On the first day, work no more than 20% of the shift's duration at full intensity in the heat. Increase the duration of time at full intensity by no more than 20% a day until workers are used to working in the heat.

Drink Cool Water

Drink cool water even if you are not thirsty — at least 1 cup every 20 minutes.

Take Rest Breaks

Take enough time to recover from heat given the temperature, humidity, and conditions.

Find Shade or a Cool Area

Take breaks in a designated shady or cool location.



Dress for the Heat

Wear a hat and light-colored, loose-fitting, and breathable clothing if possible.



Watch Out for Each Other Monitor yourself and others for signs of heat illness.



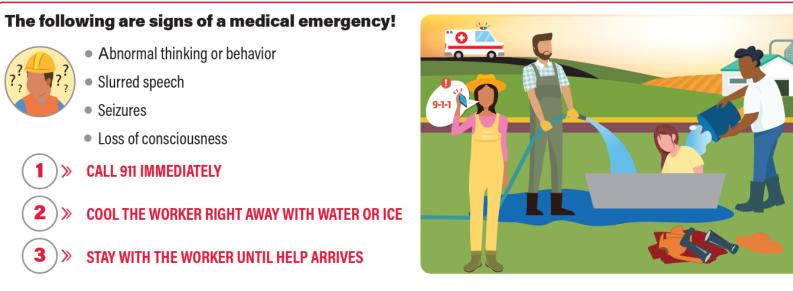
If Wearing a Face Covering

Change your face covering if it gets wet or soiled. Verbally check on others frequently.



New OSHA Heat Prevention Webpage

First Aid for Heat Illness



Watch for any other signs of heat illness and act quickly. When in doubt, call 911.

If a worker experiences:	Take these actions:
Headache or nausea	Give water to drink
Weakness or dizziness	Remove unnecessary clothing
Heavy sweating or hot, dry skin	Move to a cooler area
Elevated body temperature	> Cool with water, ice, or a fan
Thirst	> Do not leave alone
Decreased urine output	> Seek medical care if needed

June 9, 2022

OSHA Heat: Employer Responsibility

Create a Heat Illness Prevention Plan

Planning and Supervision

Protecting New Workers

Heat Hazard Recognition

Engineering Controls, Work Practices and PPE

Heat Stress Calculator

Provide Water. Rest. Shade.

Provide Training for Workers

Heat Prevention Training

Heat Illness: Prevent Heat Illness at Work Poster (PDF)

Heat Illness Signs and Symptoms Infographic English (ZIP)

Know First Aid for Heat Illness

Heat Related Illness and First Aid

Share Materials with Workers

Protecting Workers from the Effects of Heat QuickCard (PDF)

Prevent Heat Illness at Work: OSHA Alert (PDF)

https://www.osha.gov/heat/employer-responsibility

June 9, 2022

June 2022: Analyze Heat Rule Comments

DOL/OSHA

RIN: 1218-AD39

Publication ID: Spring 2022

Title: Heat Illness Prevention in Outdoor and Indoor Work Settings

Abstract:

Heat is the leading weather-related killer, and it is becoming more dangerous as 18 of the last 19 years were the hottest on record. Excessive heat can cause heat stroke and even death if not treated properly. It also exacerbates existing health problems like asthma, kidney failure, and heart disease. Workers in agriculture and construction are at highest risk, but the problem affects all workers exposed to heat, including indoor workers without climate-controlled environments. Essential jobs where employees are exposed to high levels of heat are disproportionately held by Black and Brown workers.

Heat stress killed 815 U.S. workers and seriously injured more than 70,000 workers from 1992 through 2017, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. However, this is likely a vast under estimate, given that injuries and illnesses are under reported in the U.S., especially in the sectors employing vulnerable and often undocumented workers. Further, heat is not always recognized as a cause of heat-induced injuries or deaths and can easily be misclassified, because many of the symptoms overlap with other more common diagnoses.

To date, California, Washington, Minnesota, and the US military have issued heat protections. OSHA currently relies on the general duty clause (OSH Act section 5(a))(1)) to protect workers from this hazard. Notably, from 2013 through2017, California used its heat standard to conduct 50 times more inspections resulting in a heat-related violation than OSHA did nationwide under its general duty clause. It is likely to become even more difficult to protect workers from heat stress under the general duty clause in light of the 2019 Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission's decision in *Secretary of Labor v. A.H. Sturgill Roofing, Inc.*

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	10/27/2021	<u>86 FR 59309</u>
ANPRM Comment Period Extended	12/02/2021	86 FR 68594
ANPRM Comment Period Extended End	01/26/2022	
ANPRM Analyze Comments	06/00/2022	

https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaViewRule?pubId=202204&RIN=1218-AD39

Future Regulatory Activity: Unified Regulatory Agenda List Released

Federal Agency Regulatory Agenda Issued

- Federal agencies release semiannual agenda
- Lists rules/regulations agencies plan to release
- Helps manufacturers see what agencies have planned Spring 2022 Unified Agenda of Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions

The Biden Administration's Unified Agenda of Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions (Agenda) reports on the actions administrative agencies plan to issue in the near and long term. Released by the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, the Agenda provides important public notice and transparency about proposed regulatory and deregulatory actions within the Executive Branch.

The Regulatory Information Service Center (RISC) was created in June 1981. The Center undertakes projects that will facilitate development of and access to information about Federal regulatory and deregulatory activities. The Center's principal publication is the Unified Agenda in coordination with the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. Since 1978, Federal agencies have been required by Executive orders to publish agendas of regulatory and deregulatory activities. RegInfo.gov displays editions of the Unified Agenda of Federal Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions beginning with fall 1995.

Spring 2022 Unified Agenda of Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions Active Regulatory Actions Listed by Agency https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaMain

Dec. 2022: Injury/Illness Reporting Rule

DOL/OSHA

RIN: 1218-AD40

Publication ID: Spring 2022

Title: Improve Tracking of Workplace Injuries and Illnesses

Abstract:

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is amending its occupational injury and illness recordkeeping regulation (29 CFR 1904.41). Among other things, part 1904 requires covered employers to record each recordable employee injury and illness on an OSHA Form 300, which is the "Log of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses," or equivalent. In addition, employers must also prepare a supplementary OSHA Form 301 "Injury and Illness Incident Report" or equivalent that provides additional details about each case recorded on the OSHA Form 300, and, at the end of each year, employers are required to prepare a summary report of all injuries and illnesses on the OSHA Form 300A, which is the "Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses," and post the form in a visible location in the workplace.

Under 29 CFR 1904.41, certain employers are only currently required to electronically submit injury and illness information from their OSHA Forms 300A (the summary) annually. However, the information submitted is only in summary form, OSHA does not receive establishment-specific, case-specific, injury and illness data. This proposal would change that by amending OSHA's recordkeeping regulation to require certain establishments to also electronically submit information from the OSHA Forms 300 and 301 (Injury and Illness Incident Report) once a year. In addition, OSHA's proposal would adjust which establishments are required to submit data from their OSHA Forms 300A and require establishments to include their company name when making their electronic submissions. The majority of these proposed amendments are similar to requirements contained in OSHA's Improve Tracking of Workplace Injuries and Illnesses final rule, 81 FR 29624 (May 12, 2016) which were removed by the Tracking of Workplace Injuries and Illnesses final rule, 84 FR 380 (January 25, 2019).

Agency: Department of Labor(DOL)	Priority: Other Significant
RIN Status: Previously published in the Unified Agenda	Agenda Stage of Rulemaking: Proposed Rule Stage
Major: No	Unfunded Mandates: No
CFR Citation: 29 CFR 1904.41	
Legal Authority: <u>29 U.S.C. 657</u>	
Legal Deadline: None	
Timetable:	

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	03/30/2022	<u>87 FR 18528</u>
NPRM Comment Period Extended	05/25/2022	<u>87 FR 31793</u>
NPRM Comment Period Extended End	06/30/2022	
Final Rule	12/00/2022	

https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaViewRule?pubId=202204&RIN=1218-AD00

March 2023: Lock-out/Tag-out NPRM

DOL/OSHA

RIN: 1218-AD00

Publication ID: Spring 2022

Title: Lock-Out/Tag-Out Update

Abstract:

Recent technological advancements that employ computer-based controls of hazardous energy (e.g., mechanical, electrical, pneumatic, chemical, and radiation) conflict with OSHA's existing lock-out/tag-out standard. The use of these computer-based controls has become more prevalent as equipment manufactures modernize their designs. Additionally, there are national consensus standards and international standards harmonization that govern the design and use of computer-based controls: this approach of controlling hazardous energy is more accepted in other nations, which raises issues of needing to harmonize U.S. standards with those of other countries. The agency has recently seen an increase in requests for variances for these devices. OSHA issued a Request for Information (RFI) in May 2019 to understand the strengths and limitations of this new technology, as well as potential hazards to workers.

Timetable:
Legal Deadline: None
Legal Authority: <u>29 U.S.C. 655(b)</u>
CFR Citation: 29 CFR 1910.147
Major: No
RIN Status: Previously published in the Unified Agenda
Agency: Department of Labor(DOL)

Priority: Other Significant Agenda Stage of Rulemaking: Proposed Rule Stage Unfunded Mandates: No

Action	Date	FR Cite
Request for Information (RFI)	05/20/2019	<u>84 FR 22756</u>
RFI Comment Period End	08/19/2019	
NPRM	03/00/2023	
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaViewRule?pubId=202204&RIN=1218-AD00

July 2022: NLRB Joint Employer NPRM

NLRB Title: Joint Employer Abstract:	RIN: 3142-AA21	Publication ID: Spring 2022
The National Labor Relations Board will engage in rulemaking on Relations Act (Act), are a joint employer under the Act.	the standard for determining whethe	r two employers, as defined in section 2(2) of the National Labor
Agency: National Labor Relations Board(NLRB) RIN Status: Previously published in the Unified Agenda Major: Undetermined CFR Citation: <u>29 CFR 102</u> Legal Authority: <u>29 U.S.C. 156</u> Legal Deadline: None Timetable:	• •	r Significant e of Rulemaking: Proposed Rule Stage ndates: Undetermined
Action 07/00/2022	Date	FR Cite

https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaViewRule?pubId=202204&RIN=3142-AA21

Sept. 2022: Union Election NPRM

NLRB	RIN: 3142-AA22	Publication ID: Spring 2022
Title: •Election Protection Rule Abstract:		
The National Labor Relations Board (the Board) will be on April 1, 2020.	revising the representation election procedures I	ocated at 29 CFR part 103, with a focus on the amendments issued
Agency: National Labor Relations Board(NLRB)	Priority: Other S	Significant
RIN Status: First time published in the Unified Agenda	Agenda Stage o	of Rulemaking: Proposed Rule Stage
Major: Undetermined	Unfunded Mano	dates: Undetermined
CFR Citation: 29 CFR 103		
Legal Authority: 29 U.S.C. 156		
Legal Deadline: None		
Timetable:		
Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM 09/00/202	2	

https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaViewRule?pubId=202204&RIN=3142-AA22

July 2022: CEQ NEPA Guidance

CEQ

RIN: 0331-AA06

Publication ID: Spring 2022

Title: National Environmental Policy Act Guidance on Consideration of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change

Abstract:

On January 20, 2021, President Biden issued Executive Order 13990, "Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis," to establish a national policy to empower our workers and communities; promote and protect our public health and the environment; and conserve our national treasures and monuments, places that secure our national memory. 86 FR 7037 (Jan. 25, 2021). Section 7(e) directs CEQ to review, revise, and update its 2016 "Final Guidance for Federal Departments and Agencies on Consideration of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and the Effects of Climate Change in National Environmental Policy Act Reviews," 81 FR 51866 (Aug. 5, 2016), which CEQ previously had withdrawn, 82 FR 16576 (Apr. 5, 2017). CEQ's guidance will provide agencies with recommendations on how to properly assess the greenhouse gas emissions and climate change effects of their proposed actions pursuant to NEPA.

Agency: Council on Environmental Qualit	y(CEQ)	Priority: Other Significant	
RIN Status: Previously published in the U	nified Agenda	Agenda Stage of Rulemaking: Prerule Stage	
Major: No		Unfunded Mandates: No	
CFR Citation: None (To search for a sp	pecific CFR, visit the <u>Code of Federal Regulation</u>	ions.)	
Legal Authority: <u>42 U.S.C. 4321</u> <u>42 U.S</u>	<u>S.C. 4331</u> <u>42 U.S.C. 4332</u> <u>42 U.S.C. 4333</u>	42 U.S.C. 4334 42 U.S.C. 4335	
Legal Deadline: None			
Timetable:			
Action	Date		FR Cite
Notice	07/00/2022		

https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaViewRule?pubId=202204&RIN=0331-AA06

Aug. 2022: PM Air Quality NPRM

EPA/OAR

RIN: 2060-AV52

Publication ID: Spring 2022

Title: Review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter

Abstract:

Legal Deadline: None

Under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977, EPA is required to review and if appropriate revise the air quality criteria for the primary (health-based) and secondary (welfarebased) national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) every 5 years. On December 18, 2020, the EPA published a final decision retaining the NAAQS for particulate matter (PM), which was the subject of several petitions for reconsideration as well as petitions for judicial review. As directed in Executive Order 13990, "Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis," signed by President Biden on January 20, 2021, EPA is undertaking a review of the decision to retain the PM NAAQS. Based on that review, EPA is undertaking a rulemaking to reconsider the December 18, 2020 decision because the available scientific evidence and technical information indicate that the current standards may not be adequate to protect public health and welfare, as required by the Clean Air Act. As part of this reconsideration, EPA intends to develop an updated Integrated Science Assessment (ISA) and revised policy assessment to take into account the most up-to-date science on public health impacts of PM, and to engage with the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) and a newly constituted expert PM panel.

Agency: Environmental Protection Agency(EPA)	Priority: Other Significant	
RIN Status: Previously published in the Unified Agenda	Agenda Stage of Rulemaking: Proposed Rule Stage	
Major: Undetermined	Unfunded Mandates: No	
CFR Citation: <u>40 CFR 50</u>		
Legal Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7414 et seg. Clean Air Act		

 Action
 Date
 FR Cite

 NPRM
 08/00/2022
 03/00/2023

 Final Rule
 03/00/2023
 03/00/2023

https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaViewRule?pubId=202204&RIN=2060-AV52

Nov. 2022: Apprenticeships Final Rule

DOL/ETA

RIN: 1205-AC06

Publication ID: Spring 2022

Title: Apprenticeship Programs, Labor Standards for Registration, Amendment of Regulations **Abstract**:

On February 17, 2021, the President signed an Executive Order: (1) revoking Executive Order 13801 (issued on June 15, 2017); and (2) directing federal departments and agencies to consider taking steps promptly to rescind any orders, rules, regulations, guidelines or policies implementing Executive Order 13801. The Department is considering amending its apprenticeship regulations to rescind subpart B of title 29 CFR part 29, Labor Standards for the Registration of Apprenticeship Programs, including the status of those Standards Recognition Entities and Industry Recognized Apprenticeship Programs (IRAPs) that previously received recognition under the provisions of 29 CFR part 29, subpart B, and to make additional conforming edits in subpart A as appropriate.

Agency: Department of Labor(DOL)Priority: Economically SignificantRIN Status: Previously published in the Unified AgendaAgenda Stage of Rulemaking: Final Rule StageMajor: YesUnfunded Mandates: NoCFR Citation: 29 CFR 29Legal Authority: The National Apprenticeship Act, as amended (50 Stat. 664) 29 U.S.C. 50

Legal Deadline: None

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	11/15/2021	<u>86 FR 62966</u>
NPRM Comment Period End	01/14/2022	
Final Rule	11/00/2022	

https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaViewRule?pubId=202204&RIN=1205-AC06

Dec. 2022: Section 199a NPRM

TREAS/IRS

RIN: 1545-BP64

Publication ID: Spring 2022

Title: Additional Guidance Under Section 199A

Abstract:

The proposed regulations would provide guidance on the determination of the unadjusted basis immediately after acquisition of qualified property. The proposed regulations also would provide additional guidance on the cross-reference to section 864(c) in the definition of qualified business income, the treatment of previously disallowed deductions or losses in the year of allowance, and additional aggregation examples. Finally, the proposed regulations would provide additional guidance on reporting requirements for relevant passthrough entities and publicly traded partnerships, and additional guidance for computing the deduction under section 199A for electing small business trusts.

Agency: Department of the Treasury(TREAS)	Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant
RIN Status: Previously published in the Unified Agenda	Agenda Stage of Rulemaking: Proposed Rule Stage
Major: No	Unfunded Mandates: No
CFR Citation: <u>26 CFR 1.199A</u>	
Legal Authority: <u>26 U.S.C. 7805</u> <u>26 U.S.C. 199A(f)(4)</u> <u>26 U.S.C. 199A(h)</u>	
Legal Deadline: None	
Timetable:	
Action Date	FR Cite
NPRM 12/00/2022	

https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaViewRule?pubId=202204&RIN=3142-AA21

Dec. 2022: Prompt Payment of Contractors

RIN: 0750-AL27

Publication ID: Spring 2022

Title: Prompt Payment of Contractors (DFARS Case 2021-D008)

Abstract:

DoD is proposing to amend the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement to implement section 815 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021. Section 815 revises requirements for accelerating payments to small business prime contractors and for small business subcontractors.

Agency: Department of Defense(DOD)	Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant	
RIN Status: Previously published in the Unified Agenda	Agenda Stage of Rulemaking: Proposed Rule Stage	
Major: No	Unfunded Mandates: No	
CFR Citation: <u>48 CFR 232</u>		
Legal Authority: <u>41 U.S.C. 1303</u> Pub. L. 116-283, sec. 815		
Legal Deadline: None		
Timetable:		
Action Date	FR Cite	
NPRM 12/00/2022		
NPRM 12/00/2022		

https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaViewRule?pubId=202204&RIN=0750-AL27

Dec. 2022: DoD NIST Cybersecurity Rule

DOD/DARC

RIN: 0750-AL68

Publication ID: Spring 2022

Title: •NIST SP 800-171 DoD Assessment Requirements (DFARS Case 2022-D017) **Abstract:**

This rule was split from RIN 0750-AK81. DoD is finalizing an interim rule (see RIN 0750-AK81) to implement the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publication (SP) 800-171 DoD Assessment Methodology in order to protect against the theft of intellectual property and sensitive information from the Defense Industrial Base (DIB) sector. This methodology enables DoD to assess contractor implementation of the cybersecurity requirements in NIST SP 800-171, Protecting Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) In Nonfederal Systems and Organizations.

Agency: Department of Defense(DOD)	Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant	
RIN Status: First time published in the Unified Agenda	Agenda Stage of Rulemaking: Fina	I Rule Stage
Major: No	Unfunded Mandates: No	
CFR Citation: <u>48 CFR 204</u> <u>48 CFR 212</u> <u>48 CFR 217</u>	<u>48 CFR 252</u>	
Legal Authority: <u>41 U.S.C. 1303</u>		
Legal Deadline: None		
Timetable:		
Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	12/00/2022	

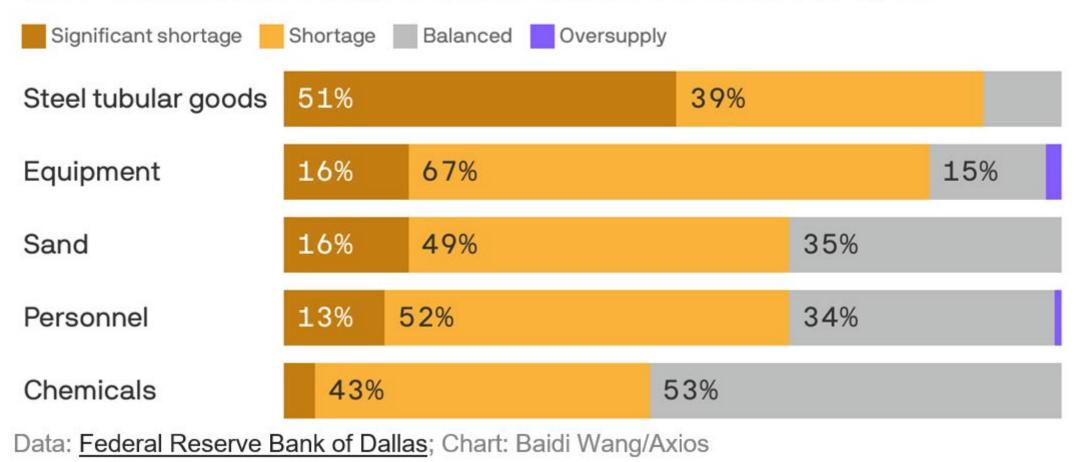
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Congressional Activity: Manufacturing, Supply Chain Competitiveness Bill

Oil and Gas Firms Facing Supply Crunch

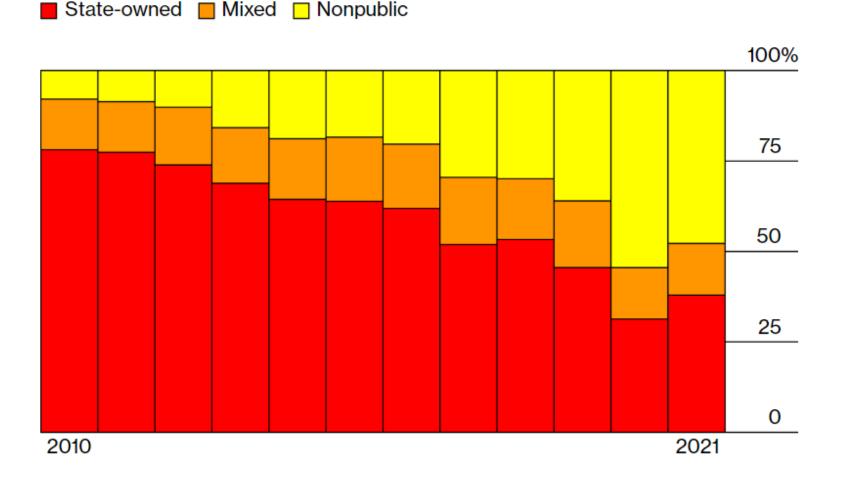
Firms' input availability by item

Share of 132 executives from oil and gas firms responding to a survey conducted June 8-16, 2022



Chinese State-Owned Enterprises

Share of the total market value of the 100 largest listed Chinese companies, by ownership type



Source: Peterson Institute for International Economics

China Competition Bill Status Update

- Goal: Bill together by July 4; August final passage
- Negotiations moving slowly; Leadership now involved
- Lobbying to include JOBS, College Transparency Acts
- Beginning to eliminate provisions of contention
 - Differences over trade language reinstating exclusions
 - Climate provisions, union language dropped
 - Will continue to remove parts where cannot secure 60 Senators

- Tax title in China competition bill unlikely
- R&D Tax Credit switched to amortized on Jan 1, 2022
- Lobbying to reinstate immediate expensing
- Democrats want Child Tax Credit extension included
- If no CTC, unlikely to include R&D Tax credit
- Goal moves to year-end tax extenders bill, retroactivity

Tariffs, Trade, and Supply Chains

Sept. 2022: 232 Exclusions Updated Rule

DOC/BIS

RIN: 0694-AH55

Publication ID: Spring 2022

Title: Section 232 Steel and Aluminum Tariff Exclusions Process

Abstract:

This interim final rule revises aspects of the process for requesting exclusions from the duties and quantitative limitations on imports of aluminum and steel discussed in five previous Department of Commerce ("Commerce") interim final rules implementing the exclusion process authorized by the President under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, as amended ("232"). Based on public comments on the current process for submissions to Commerce, Commerce is publishing this interim final rule to make additional revisions to the 232 exclusion process, including to the 232 Exclusions Portal.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	03/19/2018	<u>83 FR 12106</u>
Interim Final Rule Effective	03/19/2018	
Interim Final Rule Comment Period End	05/18/2018	
Interim Final Rule	09/11/2018	<u>83 FR 46026</u>
Interim Final Rule Effective	09/11/2018	
Interim Final Rule Comment Period End	11/13/2018	
Interim Final Rule	06/10/2019	<u>84 FR 26751</u>
Interim Final Rule Effective	06/13/2019	
Interim Final Rule Comment Period End	08/09/2019	
Interim Final Rule	12/14/2020	85 FR 81060
Interim Final Rule Effective	12/14/2020	
Interim Final Rule Effective	12/29/2020	
Interim Final Rule	09/00/2022	

https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaViewRule?pubId=202204&RIN=0694-AI86

Dec. 2022: 232 Termination Final Rule

DOC/BIS

RIN: 0694-AI31

Publication ID: Spring 2022

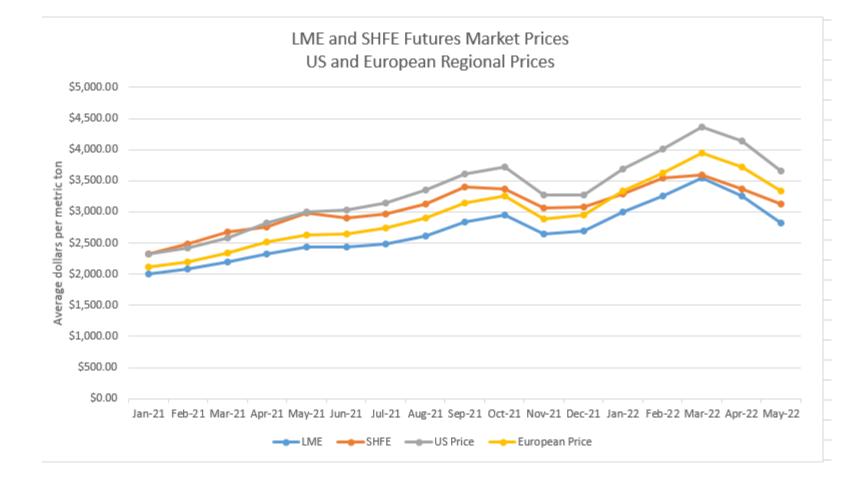
Title: Termination of 232 Investigations **Abstract**:

This final rule establishes the process by which a section 232 investigation may be terminated. This rule is designed to provide a mechanism by which the Department of Commerce may terminate an investigation when circumstances so warrant.

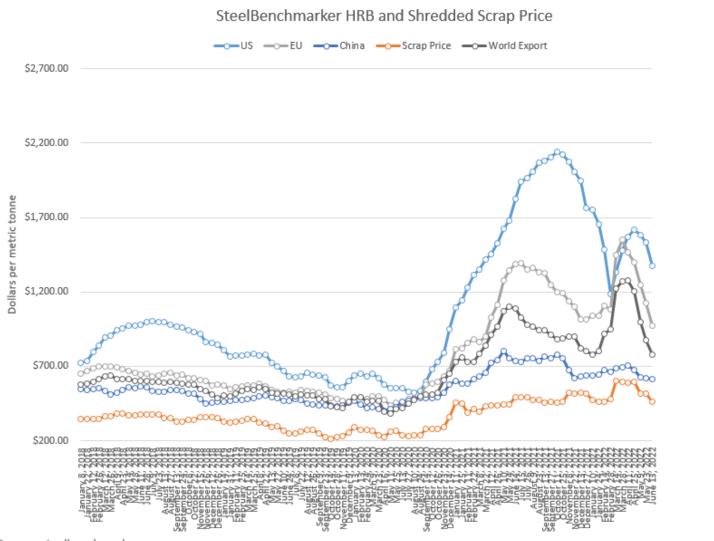
Agency: Department of Commerce(DOC)	Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant		
RIN Status: Previously published in the Unified Agenda	Agenda Stage of Rulemaking: Fina	Agenda Stage of Rulemaking: Final Rule Stage	
Major: No	Unfunded Mandates: No		
CFR Citation: 15 CFR 705			
Legal Authority: <u>19 U.S.C. 1862</u>			
Legal Deadline: None			
Timetable:			
Action	Date	FR Cite	
Final Action	12/00/2022		

https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaViewRule?pubId=202204&RIN=0694-AI31

Aluminum 232 Pricing



Steel 232/Pricing



Source: steelbenchmarker.com

Media

The Washington Post

Economy shows resilience despite mounting recession fears Inflation persists but layoffs are at record lows, and households and businesses are still spending

June 4, 2022

By: David J. Lynch



An employee operates a high speed inspection machine to inspect ECG components at Marion Manufacturing in Cheshire, Conn (Marion Manufacturing)

If there is a recession brewing in the United States, it would be news to Doug Johnson.

The president of Marion Manufacturing Co. in Cheshire, Conn., Johnson is enjoying some of the best times in his company's 76-year history. Sure, he's heard the negative chatter about rising prices, sinking stocks and mounting risks from trouble overseas. And he's seen the polls showing that most Americans think the economy is headed for a tumble.

But as Johnson looks out over his 30,000-square-foot operation, all he sees are busy workers racing to keep up with new orders for a variety of vital steel and copper components, including those used in electrocardiograms and cable television hookups. His biggest problem is finding enough labor to handle all the metal-bending work that is coming his way.

"There's so much pent-up demand, and everybody I talk to — our suppliers and our customers — says the same," he said. "We're up 40 percent over last year and climbing. This month, we were up 100 percent over last year. It's incredible."

Johnson's upbeat view stands in stark contrast to more prominent figures' deepening gloom. On Wednesday, Jamie Dimon, chief executive of JPMorganChase, warned that "a hurricane" is bearing down on the U.S. economy.

Tesla chief Elon Musk and Lawrence Summers, a former treasury secretary, also have warned of a looming recession. In a Quinnipiac University poll last month, 85 percent of Americans a greed a downtum was either "very" or "somewhat likely" in the next year.

Yet Marion Manufacturing's good fortune — echoed by continued strength in consumer spending and signals from Wall Street — suggests that such dire assessments may be wrong. On Friday, the Labor Department said the economy gained 390,000 jobs in May, beating analysts' expectations, while the unemployment rate remained at 3.6 percent.

"I'm not sure what's driving all the talk of recession," said Johnson "There's a lot of negativity out there that's not well founded."



Doug Johnson on Marion Manufacturing's production floor in Cheshire, Conn. (Marion Manufacturing

At Marion Manufacturing, Johnson this year is spending several hundred thousand dollars on new factory equipment to turn stainless steel and beryllium copper into a variety of industrial parts. He sees no reason to reconsider those plans.

"Our business as a whole has never been as robustas it is now," Johnson said. "We're pretty bullish."

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A MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY ADVOCACY PODCAST

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