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UK Trade Steel Measure from 1st July 2026

On behalf of the Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to raise concerns regarding the [Government's impending changes to tariff-free steel imports from 1st July](#). Overall quota volumes are being reduced by 60%, with any imports above these levels facing a 50% tariff.

We support home-produced British steel and safeguards to achieve this, but not at any cost. Key employers across the Thames Valley are telling us that the reduction in quotas - particularly in categories 1 and 7 - will significantly increase the cost of importing steel products, in some cases running into millions of pounds. This will lead to disruption to local and European supply chains, putting local jobs and investment at risk. 300,000 people are employed in sectors which rely upon imported steel products, often not made in the UK, to manufacture products here.

"The proposed changes to tariff-free steel imports are another disruptive measure making manufacturing in the UK increasingly challenging. Norbar, as a proud UK manufacturer, continues to buy UK steel but also has need to import some specialist steel unavailable from UK manufacturers. This now adds yet another layer of unhelpful bureaucracy and administration, that is making the UK increasingly uncompetitive on the global stage".

Norbar export to over 60 countries worldwide, include those in the European Union, Australia, China, India, and the United Kingdom

Stuart Clarke, Commercial Director, [Norbar Torque Tools Ltd](#)

Given the urgency of the situation, we would be grateful for your support in raising the following concerns with Ministers:

- **Prioritise reaching a deal with the EU**, including negotiating UK-specific quotas for product categories 1–7, 12, and 14–27 and ensuring the deal recognises strong and vital UK–EU supply chain links across key manufacturing sectors.
- **Reduce the scale of proposed quota cuts**, particularly the 90% reduction in category 1 and 35% reduction in category 7.

- **Extend the current easement on duties** (currently for steel contracted by 14 March for delivery July - September) to support impacted businesses now whilst negotiations are ongoing with the EU and the outcomes for businesses are unclear.
- **Publish a full impact assessment** covering effects on both primary producers and downstream users.

"As a UK manufacturer developing advanced scientific and engineering technologies for global markets, we rely on highly specialised international supply chains and access to materials and components that are not always available domestically.

We support measures that strengthen UK industry, but until those activities re-establish capabilities we used to have as a nation, it is equally important that changes to steel import arrangements do not unintentionally increase costs or reduce the competitiveness of innovative UK manufacturers operating at the forefront of science and technology."

Matthew Martin, Managing Director, Quantum Design Oxford

Without action, there is a real risk of serious economic disruption to those businesses who are reliant on and using specific imported steel products for their manufacturing and supply chains.

We welcome your support in ensuring a more balanced outcome that protects Thames Valley and UK businesses and jobs.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Britton
Chief Executive
Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce and Industry