(26-0902)

Committee on Safeguards

Original: English

NOTIFICATION UNDER ARTICLE 12.1(A) OF THE AGREEMENT ON SAFEGUARDS ON INITIATION OF AN INVESTIGATION AND THE REASONS FOR IT

PHILIPPINES

Ceramic Tiles

The following communication, dated and received on 10 February 2026, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the Philippines.

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Further to Article 12.1 (a) of the WTO Agreement on Safeguards, the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the WTO hereby notifies the Committee on Safeguards of the initiation of a preliminary safeguard investigation on the importation of Ceramic Tiles from various countries.

1 Specify the date when the investigation was initiated

Initiation date: 5 February 2026

Additional information regarding the initiation of investigation: Notice of initiation of preliminary safeguard investigation was published on 5 February 2026 in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.[1,2]

2 Provide the precise description of the product involved

Provide a short name for the product: Ceramic Tiles

Provide the precise description of the product involved: Ceramic flags and paving, hearth or wall tiles; ceramic mosaic cubes and the like, whether or not on a backing; finishing ceramic.

Please provide the nomenclature codes under which the product is classified. You can provide HS-codes by searching the products in the database (up to 6 digits) and/or provide national nomenclature codes (more than 6 digits) by manually entering them or importing from an existing file.) Please note that these codes are provided only for information purposes:
HS code(s): 690722, 690723

3 Provide the reasons for the initiation of investigation, for example: (i) Was the investigation initiated pursuant to a petition from the domestic industry? (ii) Evidence on the basis of which the investigation was initiated. (iii) Evidence, if any, of critical circumstances where delay would cause damage which it would be difficult to repair.

The investigation was initiated on the basis of import data obtained from official sources and information submitted by members of the Ceramic Manufacturers' Association Inc. (CMAI) of the

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[1] A copy of the notice of initiation has been submitted electronically. To consult this document, please contact Ms Anne Richards of the Rules Division (anne.richards@wto.org).
[2] This document has been republished to correct the notice of initiation publication date.

Philippines, indicating that increased imports of ceramic tiles are a substantial cause of serious injury to the domestic industry, as reflected in loss of market share, declining domestic sales, utilization rate, reduction in labor productivity, incurred losses, and increased production cost.

The investigation has been initiated to determine whether safeguard measures are warranted.

4 Provide a point of contact for the investigation and identify the preferred means for corresponding.

The point of contact would be available to respond to enquiries relating to the procedures applicable to the investigation.

Bureau of Import Services (BIS)
Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)
7th Floor, Filinvest Building
387 Senator Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
or thru electronic submission to bis_irmd@dti.gov.ph

5 Provide the deadlines and procedures for importers, exporters and other interested parties to present evidence and their views, including: (i) deadlines and procedures for Members and exporters to identify themselves as interested parties, if so required, to participate in the investigation and (ii) the date of an intended public hearing as provided for in Article 3.1. Note: At the time of the initiation, if the authority has not decided whether or not to hold such a hearing, or if the date of the hearing is undetermined, Members should indicate under this item how such information would be publicized. Members are not obliged to submit another notification simply due to the fact that the proposed date has subsequently been changed.

Five (5) days from the date of publication of the notice.

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