



US Tariffs

What do they mean for East Midlands businesses?

What are the new tariffs announced?

President Trump announced that a 25% duty on automotive vehicles will be imposed immediately on 3 April 2025. It is anticipated that the 25% duty will also impact automotive parts from the 3 May.

There are currently no changes to the 25% duty imposed on some steel and aluminium products which came into effect on 13 March 2025.

A blanket 10% duty will be imposed on all goods of UK origin on 5 April 2025. There are some exceptions to this, such as Steel and Aluminium which have a sectoral tariff applied. There is likely to be additional sectoral duties announced.

Duties will not be stacked, so there will be no supplement on steel, aluminium or automotive tariffs.

Some products are exempt from these duties, such as pharmaceuticals, copper, energy, semiconductors, critical minerals and lumber products.

It is important to note that these tariffs will be applicable on top of any product specific Most Favoured Nation (MFN) duty rates.

What can East Midlands Businesses do now?

1. Checking your **Commodity Code** is a good place to start, as it is your commodity code that will establish if your goods are subject to any sectoral duties.
2. It is also important to remember that these duties are to be paid in the US and are not the responsibility of the UK business – however you must check your contracts with your US customers to ensure that the **Incoterm®** you are using within your contract does not make you liable for paying this duty. As an example, Delivered Duty Paid (DDP), makes it the exporters responsibility to complete all customs paperwork and pay any related duties.
3. **Origin** of goods play a big part in these tariffs, as each country has its own blanket duty rate. Just because the goods are being shipped from the UK, does not automatically ensure that they will only pay the 10% duty. You need to ensure that you can prove the origin of your goods if challenged.
4. You may also want to consider looking at other markets to trade your goods. Utilising **Trade Agreements** is a good way to explore other market opportunities. The UK joined CPTPP (Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Trade) on 15 December 2025, which is agreement currently between 12 countries, Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam, and allows for duty free trade in most instances using origin preference.

East Midlands Chamber is here to support your business with navigating these new duties. We can help you with Commodity Codes, Incoterms®, Origin and Trade Agreements. We also work with numerous partners that support export financing and FX.

Get in touch with our International team today for the best advice and guidance.



0333 320 0333



documentation@emc-dnl.co.uk