



Circular Ref: 2026/07

Client Advisory: Section 301 Chinese Vessel Fees – Suspension Remains Set to Expire November 9th Following U.S.-China Trade Truce Announcement

Dear Valued Clients and Brokers,

Recent statements by U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent indicate that the United States and China have agreed to extend the “Busan Agreement” trade truce through January 10th, 2027. The broader agreement has been reported as including a continued pause in Section 301 fees affecting certain China-linked vessels.

However, as of the date of this advisory, the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) has not published a Federal Register notice modifying the November 9th expiration date set out in its existing notice. As a result, the current suspension remains scheduled to expire at 11:59 p.m. EST on November 9th, 2026.

While a formal extension may follow the broader U.S.-China agreement, uncertainty remains until USTR takes further action.

Key points for vessel operators, charterers, and cargo interests:

1. The current suspension of the relevant Section 301 maritime measures remains scheduled to expire at **11:59 p.m. EST on November 9th, 2026.**
2. The announced extension of the broader U.S.– China trade truce through January 10th, 2027, has not, at present, been reflected in a change to the November 9th expiration date in USTR’s existing notice.
3. Further USTR action is therefore awaited to confirm whether the suspension will continue beyond November 9th.
4. Operators with U.S. port calls on or after November 10th should therefore continue to assess potential fee exposure under the existing Section 301 framework pending further USTR action.

ShorelineHudson will continue to monitor developments closely, including any further USTR action extending or modifying the current suspension. We will provide further updates as additional guidance becomes available.

For questions regarding the potential impact of these measures on vessel calls, port operations, or related compliance requirements, please contact your usual ShorelineHudson representative.

This advisory was prepared by Andrew Baskin, ShorelineHudson's Global Policy advisor. The information is provided for general guidance and does not constitute legal advice.

Contact Us:

Insurance

E: insurance@shorelinehudson.com

T: +1 (441) 296 2324

Risk

E: risk@shorelinehudson.com

T: +1 856 342 7500