USA: Anti-dumping duties up to 107% on Italian pasta incoming

Italian gastronomy/Export

The United States has announced a preliminary measure that could lead, starting in 2026, to the application of anti-dumping duties of up to 107% on pasta imported from Italy. This decision risks hitting one of the symbols of Italian agri-food and a sector worth hundreds of millions of euros annually in the American market alone.

In this article, we clearly and comprehensively analyze:

- what dumping means,
- how anti-dumping duties work,
- who would be affected,
- the risks, benefits, positive and negative aspects of the measure,
- what could happen in the coming months.

What is dumping?

Dumping is a commercial practice in which a company exports a product at a price lower than its actual value, that is:

- lower than the selling price in its home country, or
- lower than the cost of production.

For a government, this behavior represents unfair competition that harms local producers, because it makes it impossible to compete with artificially low prices.

When a country considers itself a victim of dumping, it can launch an investigation and decide to apply anti-dumping duties—extra taxes on imports—to "neutralize" the irregular competitive advantage.

What the US is doing: the 107% measure

The US Department of Commerce conducted an anti-dumping investigation into Italian pasta and claims that some Italian producers are selling in the US market at prices too low compared to the European market.

Preliminary findings indicate:

- Estimated dumping margin: around 91–92% for some major pasta manufacturers.
- On top of this, there is already a 15% duty in place on European products.

Result: a potential total duty of ~107% on Italian pasta imports.

The measure could come into effect on January 1, 2026, if confirmed in the final phase of the investigation.

Who would be affected: all Italian pasta?

The measure initially involves 13 Italian producers, including some of the largest brands present in the US.

However, in practice, a duty of this magnitude:

- makes all Italian pasta much less competitive,
- could directly affect a large part of annual exports (around €700 million),

- puts at risk even producers not included in the investigation, because the US market could shift to local or other-country alternatives.

In addition, some pasta manufacturers are considering or evaluating the possibility of relocating production to the US to bypass the duties.

Risks and negative aspects of the measure

1. *Collapse of Italian exports*
   A 107% duty doubles the final price of Italian pasta in the US, making it effectively non-competitive.
2. *Loss of market share in the United States*
   Consumers might turn to American products or products from other countries (Canada, Mexico, Turkey), drastically reducing the presence of Italian pasta.
3. *Risk of relocation*
   Some producers might move part of their production to the US:
   - to maintain the market,
   - but sacrificing genuine Made in Italy and the Italian supply chain.
4. *Impact on employment and Italian SMEs*
   Smaller companies, which cannot relocate, would be the most penalized.
5. *Damage to the "Italian pasta" brand*
   Relocation could create market confusion and potentially devalue the image of pasta actually produced in Italy.

Possible benefits and positive aspects (from the US and global perspective)

1. *Protection of the American industry*
   The US justifies the measure as protection for local producers, who claim to be penalized by lower prices of Italian imports.
2. *Strengthening domestic production*
   American producers could increase sales, investments, and employment.
3. *Incentive for local production for exporters*
   Some large Italian pasta manufacturers could decide to open plants in the US, creating local jobs while maintaining business relationships with the American market.

Broader economic and geopolitical effects

The US measure could become:

- an Italy–US trade clash,
- a discussion topic within the European Union, which could intervene,
- a precedent for other sectors of Italian agri-food.

Italy may also need to negotiate to prevent the measure from becoming permanent.

Conclusion: a very serious signal for Made in Italy

The 107% anti-dumping duty on Italian pasta, if confirmed, represents one of the hardest blows ever dealt to the Italian food sector.
It is not just a matter of costs: it means redesigning the role of Italian pasta in one of the most important markets in the world.

The risks are high: market loss, relocation, weakening of the supply chain, while the benefits from an Italian perspective are practically nonexistent.

For this reason, it will be crucial that:

- the Italian government,
- the European Union,
- and industry associations

act quickly to defend a strategic sector of Italian excellence.

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