



USA Tariffs 2026: a guide to the 10% surcharge for Italian exporters

Export/ Shipping



Starting February 24, 2026, many goods imported into the United States, including food and beverages from Italy, will be subject to a 10% surcharge. This temporary measure can affect export costs and the competitiveness of Italian products in the U.S. market. In this article, we explain what it means, who is excluded, and how exporters can prepare.

What is the 10% surcharge on U.S. imports?

The surcharge is a temporary duty applied to almost all goods imported into the United States. The measure was introduced by the Trump administration under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974, which allows the President to impose tariffs for reasons related to the balance of payments or trade imbalances.

Key Features:

- **Rate:** 10% on imported goods
- **Duration:** 150 days (until July 24, 2026, unless extended)
- **Scope:** Applicable to many industrial sectors and food products

Why was it introduced?

The tariff was primarily a response to a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that had annulled previous tariffs deemed illegal. Officially, the administration's stated goals were:

- Correct perceived imbalances in the balance of payments
- Protect U.S. industries and workers

It's important to note that, although the political justification emphasizes "domestic market protection," the measure has a specific legal basis under the Trade Act.

Who is excluded from the tariff?

Not all goods are subject to the surcharge. Some excluded categories include:

- Selected agricultural products: beef, tomatoes, oranges
- Pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical ingredients
- Vehicles and components in specific cases
- Critical aerospace and electronic products
- Certain strategic minerals, energy, and fertilizers

Exemptions depend on HTSUS codes and the official annexes of the proclamation, so it is essential to verify them on a case-by-case basis.



Food & Beverage: what changes for Italy

For Italian products such as wine, olive oil, pasta, cheese, and preserves, the tariff applies unless specific exemptions exist. Exporters should:

- Check the customs code for each product
- Verify whether it falls under excluded categories
- Plan sales prices considering the 10% surcharge

Practical tips for Italian exporters

- Review HTSUS customs codes for each product destined for the U.S.
- Calculate the impact of the 10% surcharge on sales prices and competitiveness
- Check for any exemptions or temporary waivers with your customs broker
- Stay updated on possible extensions or changes after July 24, 2026
- Maintain complete documentation: ACE declarations, health and phytosanitary certifications

Summary

Aspect	Detail
Tariff	10% surcharge on U.S. imports
Legal Basis	Section 122 of the Trade Act 1974
Duration	150 days (until July 24, 2026)
Exemptions	Selected agricultural products, pharmaceuticals, electronics, vehicles in specific cases
Food & Beverage	Applies unless exempt
Impact	Higher costs for Italian imports; need to check customs codes

Conclusion and call-to-action

This temporary tariff can significantly affect the cost and strategy of exporting to the U.S. To minimize risks and prepare your business: contact our partners to verify exemptions, calculate the price impact, and plan your commercial strategy.