DEPARTMENT OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMPETITION

NOTICE 4156 OF 2026

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION

REVIEW THE TARIFF STRUCTURE INCLUDING, *INTER ALIA*, RELEVANT TRADE REMEDY MEASURES AND INVESTIGATION INTO THE INTRODUCTION OF AN IMPORT SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM FOR PAPER AND PAPERPRODUCTS CLASSIFIABLE UNDER CHAPTERS 48.01,48.02, 48.03, 48.04, 48.05, 48.11, 48.18 and 48.23 OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE ACT

Entity:
The International Trade Administration Commission (ITAC)
77 Meintjies Street
Sunnyside
Pretoria
0001

The Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, requested the International Trade Administration Commission ("ITAC"), in terms of Section 16(1)(d)(i) of the International Trade Administration Act, Act No. 71 of 2002 ("ITA Act"), to review a sector-wide paper and paper products industry and recommend an appropriate trade policy instruments that can drive the industry towards sustainability and resilience.

REASONS FOR THE REVIEW:

a) *"The South African pulp and paper industry is under tremendous strain, particularly in the uncoated paper, newsprint, packaging, and tissue segments. The sector has raised concerns about the growing challenges of rising import penetration, declining demand for print paper, and the slowdown in the domestic economy.*

b) *In addition, increasing input costs, particularly electricity and transportation expenses, are placing significant pressure on local manufacturers and squeezing local producers' profit margins. However, if these challenges are not effectively addressed, the economy risks losing significant industrial investments, employment opportunities, and the economic sustainability of many rural communities that depend on the sector.*

c) *The South African pulp and paper industry has made substantial investments in recent years and currently possesses technological innovation, sufficient installed production capacity, and over the past seven years, over R33bn have been invested in the sector. The sector's processing capacity is highly intertwined with the virgin fibre production as well as the recycled fibre, supporting a wide range of enterprises and employment.*

d) *The Minister indicated that ITAC may consider, inter alia, potential injury to the industry and its upstream activities due to the concern of rising imports; the latest trade statistics following USA trade policy, the recent war in the Middle East; the conditions in the domestic and global markets; exchange rate fluctuations; and other related factors."*

Comments must be provided in the format of a questionnaire obtainable on ITAC's website at www.itac.org.za under: **Services - Tariff investigations - Government Gazette Notices – Other publication notices**

Interested parties should note that the Commission will continue to evaluate ongoing applications for tariff amendments and trade measures in the relevant sector and make recommendations thereon.

Ref: 03/2026 **Enquiries**: Mr Scelo Mshengu, Email: smshengu@itac.org.za; Mr Joseph Mawasha, Email: Jmawasha@itac.org.za ; Mrs Ayanda Gandi, Email: endou@itac.org.za; Mrs Charity Ramaphosa, Email: cramaphosa@itac.org.za; Mr Busman Makakola, Email:bmakakola@itac.org.za; Mr. Tshinanne Maphagela, Email: tmaphagela@itac.org.za ; Ms Manini Masithela, Email: mmasithela@itac.org.za; Mr Chris Sako, Email: csako@itac.org.za

PUBLICATION PERIOD:

Representation should be submitted to the above ITAC officials within **four (4) weeks** of the date of this notice.