

Are optical modules subject to additional tariffs

Article Overview

Optical modules are generally exempt from additional tariffs under current U.S. trade rules, though base tariffs and proposed Section 301 tariffs may still apply depending on origin and classification.

Current U.S. Tariff Status

Optical modules imported into the U.S. are classified under HTS code 8517.62.00.90, which covers pluggable optical components. Under this classification, they are exempt from the 25% additional tariffs that apply to other subcategories of 8517.62.00 and are also exempt from the 10% temporary tariff under code 9903.03.01, as specified in U.S. Note 20(r) and 20(s) (effective February 2026) . The Supreme Court invalidated the large-scale IEEPA tariffs, including the 20% general tariff on Chinese goods, so these no longer apply . Optical modules are subject to the general 10% tariff on imported goods, but exemptions under Executive Order 14257 remove the 245% ad valorem tariff on Chinese goods and similar tariffs from other countries after a 90-day grace period . This ensures that pluggable optical components remain largely unaffected by the most severe trade measures.

Proposed Section 301 Tariffs

The U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) has proposed new Section 301 tariffs targeting imports from countries with forced labor concerns. For optical products, this could mean:

- o 10% additional tariff on imports from 14 countries, including the EU, UK, Canada, Mexico, Taiwan, and Malaysia.
- o 12.5% additional tariff on imports from 46 countries, including China, India, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, and Thailand.
- o 25% tariff on certain Brazilian-origin goods, effective after July 15, 2026 . No final implementation date has been set, and some product categories, including optical modules, may be excluded. Public hearings and comment periods are ongoing, and the USTR continues to investigate structural overcapacity and other trade issues .

Industry Impact

While tariffs on optical modules have historically increased costs, exemptions and legal rulings have mitigated the impact. Industry surveys indicate that policy uncertainty has a greater effect on procurement and supply chain planning than the tariffs themselves . Companies continue to monitor developments closely, especially regarding Section 301 and Section 232 investigations that could affect optical products .

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Summary

- o Base tariff: 10% on imported goods, with exemptions for optical modules under HTS 8517.62.00.90.
 - o Trump-era tariffs: 245% ad valorem on Chinese goods no longer applies due to exemptions and legal invalidation.
 - o Additional tariffs: Proposed Section 301 tariffs may apply depending on country of origin, but optical modules are often exempt.
 - o Policy uncertainty: Remains a key factor affecting procurement and pricing decisions in the optical industry.
- Overall, optical modules are largely shielded from additional tariffs, but importers should monitor USTR announcements and HTS classifications to ensure compliance and take advantage of exemptions.

Potential New Tariffs under Trump The Trump administration's proposals to expand tariffs could further exacerbate

Search for import and export commodity codes and for tax, duty and licences that apply to your goods.

Tariffs of 10% are applied to most products from most countries, but energy and energy products, steel, and aluminum

Imports of covered CSPV cells in excess of the 5 GW TRQ, and all imports of covered CSPV modules, will be subject to additional

Imported solar energy resources, including solar polysilicon, wafers, and cells from China are now subject to 60%

Smart thermostats, lighting systems, home security panels, and voice-activated assistants rely heavily on a

Updated Duty Rates on Optical Products Imported from China Optical products imported from China are now facing

Optical products imported from China are now facing significantly elevated tariffs, creating substantial cost implications

At present, the import of optical modules into the United States requires a 10% basic tariff, but according to Executive Order No.

The most discussed topic in the industry recently is undoubtedly the impact of the trade war and its tariff policies on

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The Harmonized Tariff Schedule provides detailed tariff rates and statistical categories for merchandise imported into the United States.

For example, when importing from China, Trina Solar products are subject to a 26% tariff, JinkoSolar products are

Alexandria, VA - April 4, 2025 - The Vision Council is closely monitoring the newly imposed reciprocal tariffs and their potential

With a flurry of recent activity, the U.S. government is administering or considering import duties and quotas on imports of solar

This article delves into the complex and far-reaching effects of the Trump-era tariffs on the global optical transceiver

Goods already subject to Section 232 duties will not face additional Section 301 tariffs under the current proposal.

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