



## Australia extends more protection to domestic steel industry



Australia has clamped protective measures to save its steel industry from dumping of steel from Asian countries. It plugged loopholes to salvage the local industry's interests in which Asian companies were reportedly avoiding Australian duties up to 62.9 percent by making minor adjustments in their steel products.

Industry, Innovation and Science Minister Christopher Pyne announced that the government decided to enforce anti-dumping duty with retrospective effect by removing a loophole that allowed minor manipulation in the products. It was done after an investigation by the Anti-Dumping Commission.

"Australian steelmakers need to be able to benefit from free and fair trade," Pyne said.

Pyne had sought advice from the Anti-Dumping Commission to stop the dumping of steel from Asian countries.

"If somebody is breaching the rules, and the Anti-Dumping Commissioner has decided this is the case with these two types of steel products, then we're perfectly within our rights to protect Australian business," Pyne asserted. The Anti-Dumping Commissioner investigated complaints by Bluescope, which alleged that companies from China, Korea, Taiwan and Malaysia had been avoiding millions of dollars in Australian taxes.

Pyne said the new rules will bring more than \$4 million in duties. They will apply to galvanised steel, where the duties range from 2.6 percent to 62.9 percent. For hollow structural steel sections, the new duties will range from 3 percent to 57.1 percent.

The Australian Steel Association (ASA) welcomed the government's step on fast-tracking anti-dumping laws. It said time was running out to keep the local steel industry afloat, report said.

The steel sector in Australia was hard hit with closures and job losses. The association said it is not advocating high tariffs just for the sake of blocking cheap steel from coming in. Association's CEO Tony Dixon noted that

Australia had been operating in a free market environment for many decades with minimum tariffs on imported steels.

"It's important that Australia continues to operate this way, but it is necessary other countries meet their own obligations under international law," he noted. Minister Pyne said, "The dumping of cheap steel had been distorting markets and made Australian steel uncompetitive."

## Innovative process for rebar product has landed in Vietnam



Japan Steel (Vija), established in 1999, is a local steel maker based in Hai Phong. Its production units consist of two plants integrating meltshops and a rolling mill for bar and wire rod to fulfil the local market.

The "MICROMILL Danieli" (MI.DA) will now be installed in Vietnam. This ground-breaking solution for small-scale / low-cost production of rebar products represents a step forward in the Minimill design, featuring an ultra-compact layout for lower investment and extremely competitive transformation costs.

The new Mi.Da. will produce 350.000 t/y

of rebar products from 10 to 41 mm in bundles, with length from 9 to 15 m, and with a maximum weight of 4t, from a casting section of 150 mm square billets coming from a single-strand fast-cast machine, equipped with Fast Cast Cube™ and Power Mould™ technologies.

The connected rolling mill is configured with eighteen housingless stands, in-line QTB system for quenching and self-tempering deformed bars, a 66 x 10 m rake type cooling bed with associated cutting-to-length services, short bar, counting and bundling, tying and final collecting bundles.