New Industrial Switch Customs Declaration vs Copper Cable

Overview

Rulings collections are separated into Headquarters and New York and span the years 1989 to present.

Key Takeaways

Customs declarations for new industrial switches and copper cables differ primarily in regulatory compliance, CE marking requirements, and tariff treatment, with copper products often subject to metal-specific duties.Customs Declaration Overview

A customs declaration is an official document detailing goods imported or exported into or out of a customs territory, such as the EU or U.S., and is required to place goods under a customs procedure . Declarations must include product description, value, origin, and applicable tariff codes. In the EU, declarations are submitted online at the customs office where goods enter the territory, and the declarant can be the importer, exporter, or a representative .

Industrial Switches
• Regulatory Compliance: Industrial switches are considered electrical equipment and must comply with the Low Voltage Directive (LVD 2014/35/EU) in the EU. CE marking is mandatory, indicating conformity with health, safety, and energy standards .

• Documentation: A Declaration of Conformity (DoC) accompanies the CE marking, certifying compliance with harmonized standards. This is required for customs clearance in the EU.

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• Tariffs: In the U.S., industrial switches may be subject to standard import duties but are generally not classified under Section 232 metal tariffs, unless they contain substantial amounts of steel, aluminum, or copper .
Copper Cables
• Regulatory Compliance: Copper cables for structured wiring must also be CE marked under the CPR and comply with harmonized standards such as EN50288 and EN50441 . The CE mark ensures legal market placement in the EU but does not indicate quality.

• Customs Declaration: Copper cables must be declared with accurate metal content and value, especially in the U.S., where Section 232 tariffs apply. For example, copper-only products are subject to a 50% ad valorem duty on the copper content, while non-copper components may be exempt .

• Tariffs: Section 232 tariffs in the U.S. also apply to copper derivatives and industrial equipment containing copper, with rates varying by metal content, country of origin, and exemptions for certain auto parts or U.S.-origin metals .
Key DifferencesFeatureIndustrial SwitchesCopper CablesCE MarkingRequired under LVDRequired under CPR and harmonized standardsDeclaration FocusElectrical safety, voltage rating, DoCMetal content, weight, value, DoCTariff Exposure (U.S.)Standard import dutiesSection 232 tariffs on copper content (50% for copper-only)Documentation ComplexityModerateHigh, due to metal valuation and derivative productsRegulatory BodyEU LVD / national authoritiesEU CPR / U.S. CBP for Section 232Practical Implications
• For EU imports: Both products require CE marking and a Declaration of Conformity, but copper cables require additional attention to harmonized standards and metal content reporting.

• For U.S. imports: Copper cables are more heavily regulated under Section 232 tariffs, requiring detailed customs entries specifying copper content and value, whereas industrial switches are generally subject to standard duties unless containing significant metal components.

• Documentation: Accurate product classification, CE marking, and metal content valuation are critical to avoid delays, fines, or misapplied tariffs. In summary, while both industrial switches and copper cables require customs declarations and CE compliance in the EU, copper cables face additional complexity due to metal-specific tariffs and valuation rules, particularly under U.S. Section 232 regulations, making precise documentation and classification essential for import/export operations .

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50% tariffs on downstream copper imports to boost US cable market

Under the new tariffs, copper wirerod, the precursor to insulated metallic wire and cable manufacturing, will also be tariffed at 50%.

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U.S. Presidential Proclamation “Adjusting Imports of Copper into the United States” - published July 30, 2025 - applied Section 232

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