FDRA FOOTWEAR DISTRIBUTORS & RETAILERS OF AMERICA
WASHINGTON UPDATE

Footwear & Politics

By Thomas Crockett • Oct 30, 2025

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Good morning! We've received some great questions from our members overnight and this morning, and we'd like to take a moment to address them so you have all the information we have right now.

- 📆 **Effective date:** President Trump indicated in his gaggle with reporters on Air Force One on the way back from Korea that the reduction in the fentanyl tariff will be immediate. We'll be sure to push out the Executive Order effecting this change as soon as it's published.
- 🧮 **About the math:** Media outlets are saying that the duty rate on Chinese goods bound for the U.S. are dropping from 55% to 45%. To clear up confusion, those numbers come from the following calculation: 10% (new fentanyl tariff) + 10% (reciprocal tariff) + 25% (301 tariff for goods on Lists 1-3) = 45%. That number was 55% prior to the reduction by President Trump.
- ⏱️ **Duration:** The outcome also puts on longterm hiatus the threat of 100% tariffs on Chinese goods on November 1st. Moreover, China's Commerce Ministry is reporting that the U.S. has agreed to not raise the reciprocal tariff rate for at least a year.

One more thing: We keep getting texts that the rate on Chinese shoes imported into the U.S. is now the same or on par with shoes from Vietnam, Cambodia, and others. A fact that doesn't make sense to many of us.

- 🧠 **Be smart:** I know it's hard to accept but these negotiations are not all about shoes (crazy, right?).
- For a vast majority of industrialized goods found on the Section 301 Lists 1 through 3, tariffs are significantly higher coming out of China in comparison with other countries....the logic that the president's actions make it more advantageous to source from countries other than China for these goods still holds.

🎧 **Go deeper:** You can access the president's and Ambassador Greer's full comments with the press aboard Air Force One via this button:

POTUS Trade Comments

Get involved: We'll have more to say about all of these developments on our weekly call Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. ET. Be sure to sign up below if you have not already (one-time signup for the rest of the year).

FDRA Weekly Member Call

Thanks for reading. We're available for any questions or comments you might have.

Have a great Thursday.

Matt and Thomas