

December 19, 2024

TO: All Empire Customers

**RE: New Tariffs and Logistical Volatility**

Due to the ongoing trade-related tensions, the incoming administration has suggested that newly proposed tariffs could be levied in early 2025. If new and/or additional tariffs are imposed, Empire will be sure to keep you up to date on any measures taken in response to these tariffs.

Furthermore, we are paying close attention to the continuing negotiations between the International Longshoreman's Association and the U.S. Maritime Alliance, which threatened port closures up and down the East and Gulf Coasts earlier this year. While a tentative agreement regarding wages was reached in October to avoid a coastwide strike, this did not address the differences between the two parties concerning the use of automation in the ports. The deadline to resolve these differences is January 15, 2025.

Due to the volatility of the aforementioned items, it has become increasingly difficult to predict and control the impacts related to pricing and the supply chain of our products. However, what we can do is continue to keep you informed on these issues and alert you if and when any adjustments need to occur.

If you have any questions, please contact your local manufacturers' representative or the Empire Inside Sales staff at 800-243-4844.

We appreciate your continued support and look forward to servicing your future needs.

Sincerely,



David Auger  
Vice President, Sales



Jim Birman  
National Sales Manager