ECABC
Electrical Contractors Association of British Columbia

Tariffs are once again front of mind for Canadians and businesses after negotiations for a new trade deal between Canada and the United States fell through last week.

The United States responded to the failed trade talks by introducing 50 per cent tariffs on approximately $28 billion of Canadian goods, which came into effect on

August 22, 2026. Prime Minister Mark Carney has announced Canada's intent to place retaliatory "dollar for dollar" tariffs on US products. The tariffs range from 15 to 50 per cent, generally corresponding to products impacted by the United States. The complete list of products impacted by the counter-tariffs is posted on the federal government's website.

The new policy will have a direct impact on BC's construction industry, with tariffs applying to steel and steel products, aluminum, select lumber categories, lighting fixtures and more.

Canada's federal government has also announced a $7.5 billion support package to assist with impacts to workers and the economy. The dollars will extend some Employment Insurance benefits, implement new EI programs, and make funding available to employers with EI work-sharing and retention programs.

ECABC previously worked with McMillan LLP to develop "Navigating Tariffs: Practical Strategies for ECABC Members" as a tool for contractors and suppliers to

help deal with business and contractual uncertainty created by tariffs when the issue began in 2025. We encourage members to review this resource to help prepare your business for the announced changes.

The document is available in the Member Dashboard of our website. Click on "Resources" on the side menu and scroll to the bottom of the page. If you're unable to access your company's member dashboard, please reach out to ECABC's Member Services Coordinator for assistance.

Quick Facts and Tips

- Tariffs go into effect at 12:01 a.m. on September 8, 2026.
- The tariffs apply based on the origin of the goods (a US-manufactured product), not the location from which they were purchased (an overseas product purchased through a US supplier).
    - Ask suppliers for country of origin before placing orders, and confirm the tariff rate on the specific product, if one applies.
- Goods that are already in transit prior to the implementation of the September 8, 2026 Canada-imposed tariffs receive an exemption.
- Ensure you have proper documentation for product origin and shipping dates.