

ALERT...Carbon Material Becoming Scarce!!

With the assessment of anti-dumping duties on imported pipe from China, we are beginning to see some delivery issues on carbon ERW pipe. There have also been several price increases on ERW and seamless carbon pipe, and additional increases have been announced for March and April. Price increases on carbon fittings and flanges were announced effective March 1st. Also contributing to the sudden surge in carbon prices:

WASHINGTON, Jan 4 (Reuters) - The U.S. Commerce Department set preliminary anti-dumping duties ranging up to 51.34 percent on Friday on certain steel pipe from China that it said was being sold in the United States at below-market prices.

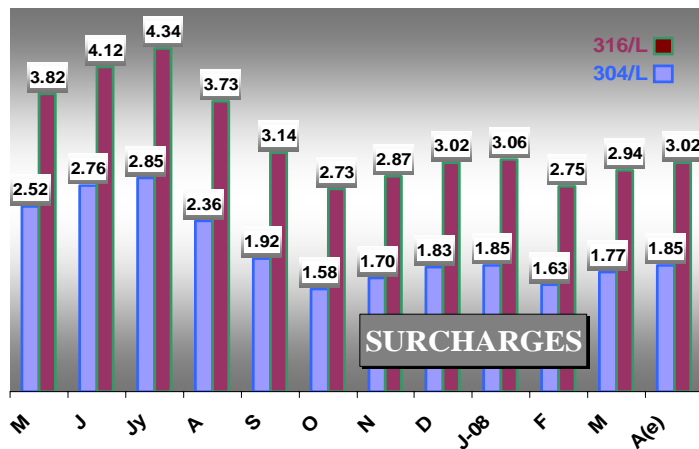
- Ⓢ Iron ore prices have drastically increased.
- Ⓢ Energy and shipping costs have escalated.
- Ⓢ The value of the dollar is at an all-time low.

A low dollar value equates to higher prices for commodities and imports

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Nickel Prices Seek Direction

Surcharges have returned near their October lows but are beginning another upward trend in March. We appear to be in a 30 cent holding pattern. December's base price increase for stainless pipe, however, has held but March's increase is being reviewed. Price increases on stainless fittings and flanges are predicted to follow in the second quarter of 2008.



Important to note- China is once again being investigated for anti-dumping and countervailing duties by The Department of Commerce.

The investigations are centered this time on China's exports of welded stainless pressure pipe.

UPDATE: LME Nickel prices spiked up 20% this past week.

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