

## **Abstract**

Safeguard measure is a special measure designed to restrict activities that are absolutely legal, but nevertheless bring injury to domestic industries of WTO Members. Compared with the anti-dumping or countervailing measures, safeguard measures are targeted towards fair trades, with more severe and strict conditions, and on a non-discriminatory basis.

China's accession to the WTO in 2001 was considered a significant benchmark to the trade relationship between China and the global world. It was not only because of the new chances, but also the challenges brought both to China and other WTO members. For Members' fear of China's special political and economic system and whether or not China can really conduct properly pursuant to the WTO agreement and undertake the mandatory obligations, it took many years for China to finish the negotiations to accede into WTO. To access into WTO as quickly as possible, China made substantial compromise. Section 16 of China's Accession Protocol on PSSM (product-specific safeguard measures) is a typical example.

Pursuant to the provisions under Section 16, any Member States of WTO can take safeguard measures against products originating from China at a much lower level than that is required in the general safeguard mechanism. What's more, the PSSM against Chinese products has a selective and discriminatory nature. After accession into the WTO, the PSSM mechanism has already shown its effects on China's trade and domestic industries. Some Members have already taken advantages of PSSM against imports from China. But beside of the negative effects, the positive effect and challenges brought by PSSM to China should never be neglected. It is better to understand PSSM in the WTO framework and consider what China could do to deal with this issue, than only claiming the unfair nature of PSSM and the pressures on China.