

Questions for PubPol/Econ 541
Nov 15

Safeguards

Jackson, Chapter 7

- Safeguards are a response to injury from imports. Why should injury from imports justify more protection than injury from other causes, such as technological change, changes in government spending programs, etc.?
- Of the various “prerequisites” for safeguards protection, which seem to be most likely to constrain the use of safeguards?
- What are the arguments for and against safeguards protection being done on an MFN (nondiscriminatory) basis?
- Is it possible for safeguards protection to take the form of quotas and still be nondiscriminatory?
- If the aim of safeguards is to facilitate “adjustment” by the industry, what does that mean, and to what extent is safeguard protection a good way to accomplish that?

USITC, “Understanding Safeguard Investigations,” undated.

- Is “serious injury” defined here?
- Is “substantial cause” defined here? **important and not less than any other cause**
- Are injured firms the only ones who can request a safeguards investigation?
- What forms of relief can be recommended?
- Does the President have the option of doing nothing?
- Against whom may tariffs be levied under this process, and for how long?

Pikard, Jim and Sylvia Pfeifer, “UK to extend steel import quotas and tariffs for two years,” *Financial Times*, June 29, 2022.

- Who originally adopted these safeguard tariffs on steel, and when?
- Where does most of the steel come from?
- Is this a simple tariff?
- Does US action have anything to do with this?
- Does anyone in the UK oppose this?
- Why might this be illegal under WTO rules?