



communiqué

N°:
No.: 30

MARCH 18, 1985

USA COUNTRY OF ORIGIN MARKING LAW
FOR IRON OR STEEL PIPES AND FITTINGS

The Minister for International Trade, James Kelleher, announced today that the U.S. Customs Service had issued a directive on March 18, 1985 which sets out exemptions from statutory country of origin marking methods for certain types of iron or steel pipes and fittings. Under a law passed by Congress last fall, all iron or steel pipes and fittings must be marked by methods such as die-stamping which could render certain products unfit for their intended use. For the past 120 day period, the U.S. Administration has allowed paint stencilled markings until they could determine which pipes and fittings cannot be marked by the statutory methods. The new directive will take effect after a sixty day period during which time the paint stencilling provision will continue.

Mr. Kelleher said, "The government and the Canadian industry have worked closely together to ensure that the U.S. Administration was fully cognizant of our concerns should this law be applied in a rigid manner. The directive takes account of our representations and should provide U.S. Customs with the flexibility to accommodate many of our problems with the marking requirement. While this is a welcome development I remain convinced that legislative action will provide the only permanent solution to the problem."