

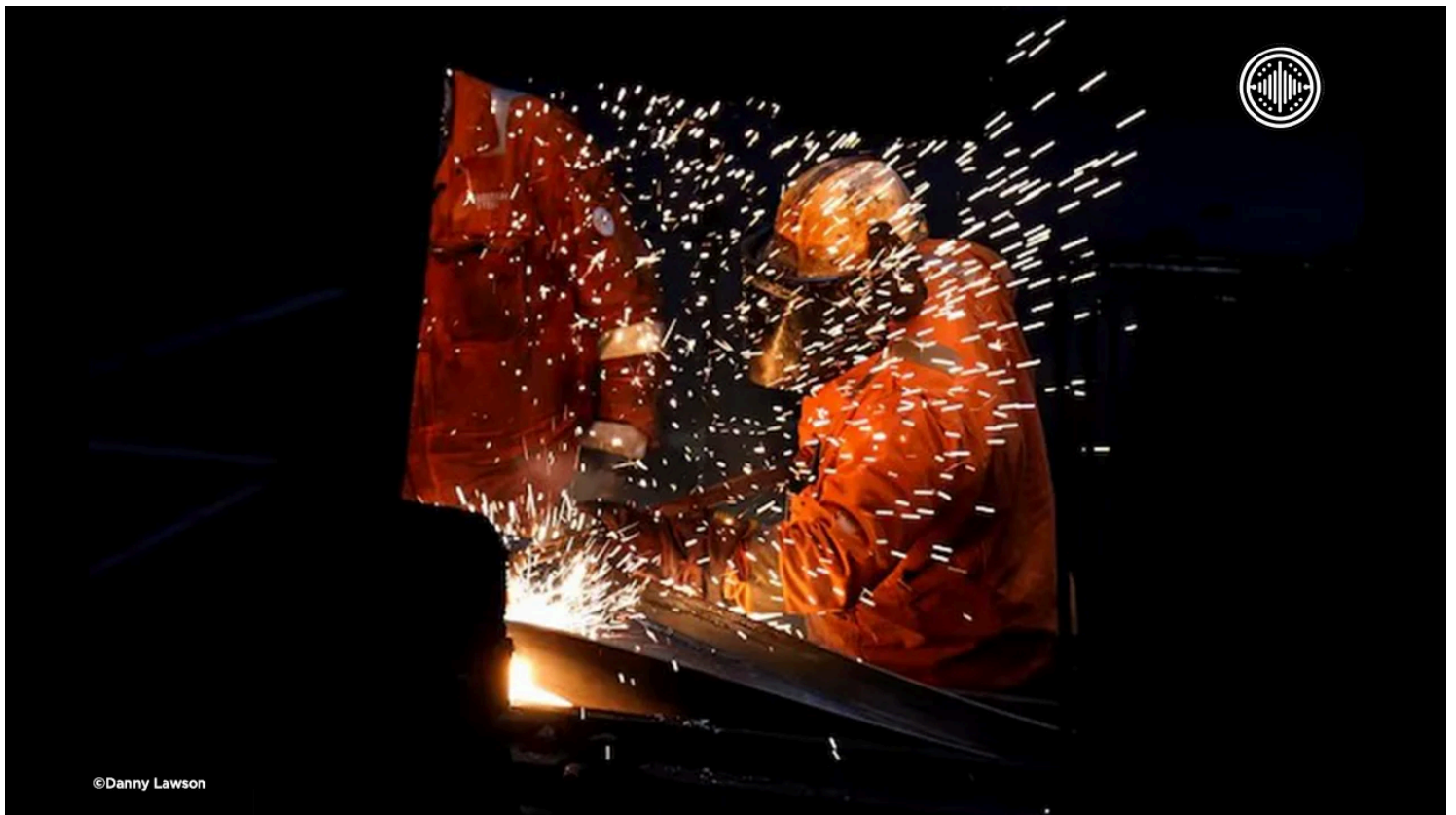
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UK Steel Sector Strengthened as EU Lifts Tariffs Under New Quota Deal

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LONDON, August 1 — The United Kingdom confirmed Friday that the European Union will remove tariffs on British steel exports through a reinstated quota system. The change is part of a broader agreement to ease post-Brexit trade tensions and support the domestic steel industry.

In May, Britain and the EU reached a new deal resetting trade and defense ties. A key part of the agreement was a custom arrangement that shields UK steel producers from new EU trade rules and tariffs. Under the revised quota, British exporters can now send up to 27,000 tonnes of steel to the EU each quarter without facing extra charges.

Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds called the decision a “positive step forward” for the UK steel sector. He said restoring the quota gives manufacturers the stability they need to grow, maintain exports, and protect jobs. The announcement follows earlier government action to support British Steel and secure a deal with the United States that helped avoid steeper U.S. tariffs.

Gareth Stace, Director General of UK Steel, also welcomed the news. He said the quota restoration would ease long-standing shipping problems for key products like structural support beams. Stace noted that the previous rules had created serious delays and cost pressures for exporters.

Talks with the United States over steel tariffs remain ongoing. Although the UK avoided a planned increase from 25 to 50 percent earlier this year, a final deal has yet to be reached. U.S. concerns over where British steel is melted and poured have caused delays in the discussions.

The quota agreement with the EU marks a win for UK industry at a time when manufacturing faces global challenges. Access to major markets like Europe and the U.S. remains vital to securing long-term jobs and investment across the country.