

USTR Opens Comment Period for USMCA Review

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Following the end of the initial six-year joint review period on July 1, 2026, when the U.S. did not agree to a full 16-year term extension, the parties to the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) entered a phase of annual joint reviews. The trade pact is set to terminate on July 1, 2036, unless a unanimous agreement is reached to extend the 16-year term during these reviews.

As part of the second (2027) annual review process, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), via a recent Federal Register Notice, has solicited comments from the public on the USMCA and how it might be improved. [Read more here.](#)

The following are the key areas mentioned in the Federal Register notice for which comments are being solicited:

- **Operation and Implementation:** General performance, effectiveness and daily operation of the agreement.
- **Compliance:** Any issues regarding how the partner countries (Mexico and Canada) comply with the rules.
- **Recommendations:** Specific actions USTR should propose during the annual joint review.
- **Investment and Competitiveness:** Factors affecting North American investment, productivity and technological leadership.
- **Economic Security:** Strategies to strengthen regional economic security and cooperate against nonmarket policies from other nations.

Comments are due by January 12, 2027, and should be posted to the USTR docket, [USTR-2026-0595](#).

USTR will also subsequently announce dates for a public hearing.

By submitting comments and participating in the public hearing, interested parties will have an opportunity to influence the next joint North American trade agreement.