

Trump grants tariff relief for electronics amid escalating U.S.-China trade tensions



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The Trump administration has announced a key exemption for consumer electronics from newly imposed “reciprocal” tariffs, offering short-term relief to both American consumers and leading technology firms such as Apple.

In a notice issued by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, approximately 20 electronics—such as smartphones, laptops, routers, and semiconductor chips—have been excluded from the steep tariffs affecting imports from multiple countries, including China. The decision helps avert immediate price hikes for U.S. buyers and shields companies heavily reliant on Chinese manufacturing.

While the exemptions ease pressure on the tech industry, President Donald Trump reaffirmed plans to continue sector-specific tariffs, particularly on semiconductors, raising concerns that the relief may be temporary. Previously, the White House had implemented a 10% baseline tariff on all foreign imports, alongside harsher duties on nations deemed to have unfair trade practices.

Though these harsher tariffs were scaled down to 10% for a 90-day negotiation period, the rollback notably excluded China. Instead, tariffs on Chinese goods were escalated—up to 125% in addition to an existing 20% levy. Beijing has responded with reciprocal measures, intensifying fears of a drawn-out trade war between the world's two largest economies.

Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One, Trump expressed hope for a resolution, pointing to his personal relationship with Chinese President Xi Jinping. “I think something positive is going to come out of it,” he said.

The tariff relief is viewed by analysts as a strategic move to stabilize domestic markets while retaining leverage in ongoing trade discussions with China and other global partners.