

Special Provision to Item 6

Control of Materials



Item 6, "Control of Materials" of the Standard Specifications is amended with respect to the clauses cited below. No other clauses or requirements of this Item are waived or changed.

Section 1.1. "Buy America," and Section 1.2., "Buy America Exceptions," are voided and replaced by the following.

- 1.1. **Buy America.** Comply with the latest provisions of Build America, Buy America Act (BABA Act) of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and applicable CFR, which restrict funds being made available from Federal financial assistance programs unless all the iron products, steel products, manufactured products, and construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States. Use iron or steel products, manufactured products, or construction materials produced in the United States for all permanently installed materials and products except when defined in Section 1.1.5., "Buy America Exceptions."

A material is solely classified based on its status at the time it is brought to the work site as either an iron or steel product, construction material, manufactured product, or Section 70917(c) material. Refer to the Buy America Material Classification Sheet found in the general notes or txdot.gov for additional clarification on material classification.

- 1.1.1. **Iron or Steel.** Iron or steel products means articles, materials, or supplies that consist of iron or steel or a combination of both. For iron or steel products, manufacturing includes any process that modifies the chemical content, physical shape or size, or final finish of a product. The manufacturing process begins with initial melting and mixing and continues through fabrication (e.g., cutting, drilling, welding, bending.) and coating (e.g., paint, galvanizing, epoxy).

For iron or steel products, submit a notarized original FORM D-9-USA-1 (Department Form 1818) with the proper attachments for verification of compliance.

- 1.1.2. **Section 70917(c) Materials.** Section 70917(c) materials mean cement and cementitious material; aggregates such as stone, sand, or gravel; or aggregate binding agents or additives. Section 70917(c) materials do not require domestic sourcing or Buy America certification.

- 1.1.3. **Construction Materials.** Construction materials are classified as articles, materials, or supplies that consist of only one of the items listed in bullets below. Minor additions (as determined by the plans or the Engineer) to any of the items listed is still a construction material.

- non-ferrous metals,
- plastic and polymer-based products (including polyvinyl chloride, composite building materials, and polymers used in fiber optic cables),
- glass (including optic glass),
- fiber optic cable (including drop cable),
- optical fiber,
- lumber,
- engineered wood, or
- drywall.

For construction materials, submit a Construction Material Buy America Certification Form (Department Form 2806) for verification of compliance that all manufacturing processes, as required, occurred in the

United States. Each construction material has specific certification requirements stated below. Provide additional documentation as requested.

Details shown on the plans provide additional clarification on Buy America requirements.

For non-ferrous metals, certification requires all manufacturing processes, from initial smelting or melting through final shaping, coating, and assembly, occurred in the United States.

For plastic and polymer-based products (including polyvinyl chloride, composite building materials, and polymers used in fiber optic cables), certification requires all manufacturing processes, from initial combination of constituent plastic or polymer-based inputs, or, where applicable, constituent composite materials, until the item is in its final form, occurred in the United States.

For glass (including optic glass), certification requires all manufacturing processes, from initial batching and melting of raw materials through annealing, cooling, and cutting, occurred in the United States.

For fiber optic cable (including drop cable), certification requires all manufacturing processes, from the initial ribboning (if applicable), through buffering, fiber stranding and jacketing, occurred in the United States. All manufacturing processes also include the standards for glass and optical fiber, but not for non-ferrous metals, plastic and polymer-based products, or any others.

For optical fiber, certification requires all manufacturing processes, from the initial preform fabrication stage through the completion of the draw, occurred in the United States.

For lumber, certification requires all manufacturing processes, from initial debarking through treatment and planing, occurred in the United States.

For engineered wood, certification requires all manufacturing processes from the initial combination of constituent materials until the wood product is in its final form, occurred in the United States.

For drywall, certification requires all manufacturing processes, from initial blending of mined or synthetic gypsum plaster and additives through cutting and drying of sandwiched panels, occurred in the United States.

1.1.4. **Manufactured Products.** Materials classified as a manufactured product are currently waived from Buy America requirements by an FHWA general waiver and are not required to be domestically sourced. However, iron or steel products incorporated into manufactured products must meet iron and steel compliance requirements.

1.1.5. **Buy America Exceptions.** Use of iron, steel, construction materials, and manufactured products manufactured in the United States is required unless the material meets an exception below.

- A waiver exists exempting the material from Buy America compliance.
- The total value of the non-compliant products (other than iron or steel products) is no more than the lesser of \$1,000,000 or 5% of Total Applicable Costs for the project. Total Applicable Cost means the actual cost of all materials requiring Buy America compliance including iron, steel, or other materials that are within the scope of existing waivers. Contractor must provide documentation showing under threshold in advance for Engineer's consideration.
- The total value of foreign iron and steel products, including delivery, does not exceed 0.1% of the total Contract cost or \$2,500, whichever is greater. The Contractor must provide documentation showing under threshold in advance for the Engineer's consideration.
- Foreign steel may be allowed when the Contract contains an alternate item for a foreign source iron or steel product and the Contract is awarded based on the alternate item.

- The materials are temporarily installed or are supplies, tools, and equipment not incorporated into the project. Temporarily installed means the materials and products must be removed at the end of the project or may be removed at the Contractor's convenience with the Engineer's approval.