

BUY AMERICA REQUIREMENTS

On Federally-aided projects the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (“IIJA”), Pub. L. No. 117-58, which includes the Build America, Buy America Act (“the Act”). Pub. L. No. 117-58, §§ 70901-52. requires the following:

(1) All iron and steel used in the project must be produced in the United States, and all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, must occur in the United States. Foreign steel and iron can be used if the cost of the materials does not exceed 0.1% of the total Contract cost or \$2,500, whichever is greater. The action of applying a coating to a covered material (i.e., steel and iron) is deemed a manufacturing process subject to Buy America. Coating includes epoxy coating, galvanizing, painting and any other coating that protects or enhances the value of a material subject to requirements of Build America, Buy America. Steel used for temporary support of excavation, including H piles, soldier piles, and sheeting when the steel is required to be left in place is subject to requirements of Build America, Buy America. Temporary steel shall remain in place when it falls within the influence zone of the soil supporting any structure or railroad tracks. The influence line is defined by a line extending out at 45° from the toe of structure being supported.

(2) all manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States—this means the manufactured product was manufactured in the United States; and the cost of the components of the manufactured product that are mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States is greater than 55 percent of the total cost of all components of the manufactured product, unless another standard for determining the minimum amount of domestic content of the manufactured product has been established under applicable law or regulation; and

(3) all construction materials are manufactured in the United States—this means that all manufacturing processes for the construction material occurred in the United States. “Construction materials” includes an article, material, or supply—other than an item of primarily iron or steel; a manufactured product; cement and cementitious materials; aggregates such as stone, sand, or gravel; or aggregate binding agents or additives—that is or consists primarily of:

- non-ferrous metals;
- plastic and polymer-based products (including polyvinylchloride, composite building materials, and polymers used in fiber optic cables);
- glass (including optic glass);
- lumber; or
- drywall.

The Buy America preference only applies to articles, materials, and supplies that are consumed in, incorporated into, or affixed to an infrastructure project. As such, it does not apply to tools, equipment, and supplies, such as temporary scaffolding, brought to the construction site and removed at or before the completion of the infrastructure project. Nor does a Buy America preference apply to equipment and furnishings, such as movable chairs, desks, and portable computer equipment, that are used at or within the finished infrastructure project, but are not an integral part of the structure or permanently affixed to the infrastructure project.