

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Bureau of Transportation Statistics****Agency Information Collection Activities Under OMB Review: OMB No. 2139-0007 Omnibus Customer Satisfaction Surveys**

AGENCY: Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 2139-0007 (Omnibus Customer Satisfaction Survey Program).

SUMMARY: BTS has submitted an Information Collection Request (ICR) described in this notice to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval as required under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), Public Law 104-13. This information collection is a targeted survey covered by OMB control number 2139-0007, which expires on April 30, 2004.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before October 21, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Building, Room 10202, Washington, DC 20502, ATTN: Desk Officer for the Bureau of Transportation Statistics. Comments should identify the OMB approval number and be submitted in duplicate. The OMB requests comments by October 21, 2002 to process the ICR expeditiously.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: June Taylor Jones, Survey Statistician, Officer of Survey Programs, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001; (202) 366-4743; fax: (202) 366-3385; e-mail: june.jones@bts.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Omnibus Customer Satisfaction Surveys—Targeted Survey.

OMB Approval Numbers: 2139-0007. Executive Order (E.O.) 12862, Setting Customer Service Standards, directs certain federal agencies to conduct surveys to determine the kind and quality of services and products our customers want and their level of satisfaction with existing services and products. BTS surveys its own customers and assists other DOT agencies in their efforts to evaluate customer satisfaction. BTS uses the information it collects to improve product development and service delivery and determine whether additional products and services are needed. In accordance with the E.O.,

BTS is planning to conduct a survey of airline pilots (private, commercial, and transport) to assess the effectiveness of and their satisfaction with the Safety Seminar program conducted by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). A two-page questionnaire will be mailed to a sample of pilots. Results from the survey will be used to evaluate the usefulness of the information presented in the FAA-sponsored safety seminars and will assess the effectiveness of seminar presentation techniques. Pilots will also be asked to provide recommendations on what topics should be covered in future safety seminars and to identify the best methods for presenting safety information. Pilots who do not currently participate in the safety seminar program will be asked to provide recommended changes to the program that would increase the likelihood of their participation.

Estimated annual burden hours: This is a one-time survey and is not currently scheduled to be conducted on a regular basis. The questionnaire will require an average of 10 minutes to complete and the sample size will be approximately 6,000 pilots. The estimated response rate for this population is approximately 50% resulting in a total of 450 burden hours.

Estimated Annual Cost of Burden: (Government Only): The combined estimated cost to the government is \$70,000. This figure includes salary costs based on hours, overhead, printing, and payment to contractors.

Susan Lapham,

Associate Director for Statistical Programs.

[FR Doc. 02-23920 Filed 9-19-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-HY-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**Customs Service****Notice of Issuance of Final Determination Concerning Notebook Computer Products**

AGENCY: Customs Service, Department of the Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of final determination.

SUMMARY: This document provides notice that Customs has issued a final determination concerning the country of origin of certain notebook computer products which were offered to the United States Government under an undesignated government procurement contract. The final determination found that based upon the facts presented, the country of origin of notebook computer products assembled in the United States

with United States and foreign components is the United States.

DATE: The final determination was issued on February 3, 1998. A copy of the final determination is attached. Any party-at-interest, as defined in 19 CFR 177.22(d), may seek judicial review of this final determination within 30 days of September 20, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Craig Walker, Special Classification and Marking Branch, Office of Regulations and Rulings (202-572-8836).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that on February 2, 1998, pursuant to subpart B of part 177, Customs Regulations (19 CFR part 177, subpart B), Customs issued a final determination concerning the country of origin of certain notebook computer products which were offered to the United States Government under an undesignated government procurement contract. The U.S. Customs ruling number is HQ 560677. This final determination was issued at the request of Dell Computer Corporation under procedures set forth at 19 CFR part 177, subpart B, which implements Title III of the Trade Agreements Act of 1979, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2511-18). The final determination concluded that, based upon the facts presented, the assembly in the United States of foreign and United States components to create certain notebook computer products results in a substantial transformation of the foreign components. Accordingly, the country of origin of the computer products is the United States.

Section 177.29, Customs Regulations (19 CFR 177.29), provides that notice of final determinations shall be published in the **Federal Register** within 60 days of the date the final determination is issued. Section 177.30, Customs Regulations (19 CFR 177.30), states that any party-at-interest, as defined in 19 CFR 177.22(d), may seek judicial review of a final determination within 30 days of publication of such determination in the **Federal Register**. Customs has recently learned that notice of the final determination issued as HQ 560677 was inadvertently not published as required by 19 CFR 177.29. Nevertheless, because publication of notice of the final determination is a prerequisite to the initiation of judicial review of the determination by a party-in-interest under 19 CFR 177.30, this document gives notice of the final determination issued on February 3, 1998. Any party-at-interest, as defined in 19 CFR 177.22(d), may seek judicial review of this final determination within 30 days of September 20, 2002.

Dated: September 6, 2002.

Michael T. Schmitz,

Assistant Commissioner, Office of Regulations and Rulings.

HQ 560677

February 3, 1998.

MAR-05 RR:TC:SM 560677 BLS

CATEGORY: Marking

Richard F. Busch, II,

Hall & Evans, L.L.C., 1200 Seventeenth Street, Denver, Colorado 80202-5817.

Re: U.S. Government Procurement; Final Determination; Title III, Trade Agreements Act of 1979 (19 U.S.C. 2511); Subpart B, Part 177, Customs Regulations (19 CFR 177.21 *et seq.*); Country of origin of Notebook computer products; substantial transformation; HRL 735608; HRL 559336

Dear Mr. Busch: This is in reference to your letters dated September 23 and September 29, 1997, on behalf of Dell Computer Corporation (Dell), requesting a final determination of origin under Subpart B of Part 177, Customs Regulations (19 CFR 177.21 *et seq.*) in connection with the offering of two portable notebook computer products for sale to the U.S. Government. (Scenarios 1 and 2 of your submission).

In your letter of December 3, 1997, you also advised that Dell was withdrawing its ruling request at this time in connection with Scenario 3, pertaining to certain operations in the U.S., but would re-submit the request with additional information at a later date. Under the circumstances, we will address only the issues pertaining to the notebook computers.

Under Subpart B of Part 177, which implements Title III of the Trade Agreements Act of 1979, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2511 *et seq.*), the Customs Service issues country of origin advisory rulings and final determinations on whether an article is or would be a product of a designated foreign country or instrumentality for the purpose of granting waivers of certain "Buy America" restrictions in U.S. law or practice for products offered for sale to the U.S. Government. Hall & Evans, L.L.C., as counsel to Dell, a party-at-interest within the meaning of 19 CFR 177.22(d)(1), is entitled to request this final determination.

Facts

The two notebook computer products, "Twister" and "Mojave," are designed and engineered to meet a broad range of custom configurations. Mojave is primarily designed to meet the needs of government agencies/large corporations, and Twister is primarily designed to meet the needs of sophisticated individuals and small businesses.

In general, both the Mojave and Twister notebook computers will be manufactured by Dell from parts and components sourced through multiple vendors in a variety of countries. Dell's Texas manufacturing operation consists of three phases. The first phase is the Government customer's design/order, which is the actual beginning of a customized notebook computer system. The second phase of the manufacturing operation involves the assembly of parts, subassemblies and components during a multi-station

production process. Finally, Dell has developed a proprietary systems integration process (FISH/FIDA) that transforms the non-operational "chassis" for Twister and Mojave into customized computer notebook systems that will operate to the precise requirements of different Government customers.

You state that Dell employs software programmers and hardware engineers, who must not only write the appropriate software to configure each system on a build-to-order basis, but also ensure all existing software and components are fully compatible and optimized with the thousands of software and hardware component configurations which the Government may dictate. You also state that all Dell employees who work on the Mojave and Twister production lines must attend internal training to become certified to perform the delicate tasks required in a number of the manufacturing stations.

Assembly of Twister

When the chassis is received from the Taiwanese OEM (original equipment manufacturer), the LCD and the CPU are already installed on the base plastics, but the BIOS and memory modules are not so installed. The components are sourced from various countries, which include: the chassis (Taiwan); hard disk drive (Thailand); BIOS chip (U.S.); floppy disk drive (China); AC adapter (China, but in the future, Thailand); CD ROM (Japan); fax modem cards (U.S.); docking station (Taiwan); and the memory board (Korea, Japan, or Singapore). The process of assembling the product is as follows:

Station 1. Dell receives chassis; it is checked for defects and placed on the assembly line. The chassis is matched with a specific order.

Station 2. System service tag numbers are input; customer-specific testing regime is configured and loaded; customer-specific disk configured.

Station 3. BIOS chip and memory modules installed.

Station 4. Hard Disk Drive prepared for installation.

Station 5. Hard Disk Drive installed into notebook chassis.

Station 6. PCMCIA modem card installed.

Station 7. AC adapter plugged in, PCMCIA insert removed and network interface card inserted. Notebook booted and Flash BIOS burned into non-volatile RAM. FISH/FIDA configures a customer-specific machine and begins running diagnostic tests.

Station 8. Electro-Mechanical Repair. Any notebooks with technical problems are sent to this station for repair.

Station 9. Quality Control.

Station 10-12. Dell customized and proprietary "Pic to Light" assembly process. (A manufacturing system that identifies specific peripherals, components and subassemblies for inclusion into the manufacturing process along the assembly line.)

Station 13. "Out of Box" Audit. Notebooks are taken randomly from the assembly line and tested.

Station 14. Automatic processing and shipping.

Assembly of Mojave

The assembly of Mojave is similar but not identical to that of Twister. When Dell receives the notebook chassis from Taiwan, the LCD screen, floppy disc drive and the BIOS chip have been assembled onto the base plastics, but neither the keyboard nor the CPU and other primary chips are installed. The additional components which make up the Mojave are identical to the components assembled to make the Twister with the exception of the keyboard, which is not included as part of the Twister configuration. The components are sourced from various countries, which include: the chassis (Taiwan); hard disk drive (Thailand); floppy disk drive (China); AC adapter (China, but in the future, Thailand); CD ROM (Japan); fax modem cards (U.S.); docking station (Taiwan); and the memory board (Korea, Japan, or Singapore). The country of origin of the keyboard is Japan, but in the future will be Malaysia. The CPU is of U.S.-origin. The process of assembling Mojave is as follows:

Station 1. Dell receives chassis; it is checked for defects and placed on the assembly line. The chassis is matched with a specific order.

Station 2. System service tag numbers are input; customer-specific testing regime is configured and loaded; customer-specific disk configured.

Station 3. CPU processor module and hybrid cooler installed.

Station 4. Keyboard installed.

Station 5. Memory modules installed.

Station 6. Hard Disk Drive prepared for installation.

Station 7. Hard Disk Drive installed into notebook chassis.

Station 8. PCMCIA modem card installed.

Station 9. Notebook booted and Flash BIOS burned into non-volatile RAM. FISH/FIDA configures a customer-specific machine and begins running diagnostic tests.

Station 10. Electro-Mechanical Repair. Any notebooks with technical problems are sent to this station for repair.

The operations performed at Stations 11 through 16 of the Mojave assembly line are identical to the operations that occur at Stations 9 through 14 of the Twister assembly line, including quality control, "Pic to Light" process, testing, and shipping.

Issue

Whether the assembly in the U.S. of the various components into the Twister and Mojave notebook computers constitute a substantial transformation, such that the computers may be considered products of the U.S.

Law and Analysis

As prescribed under Title III of the Trade Agreements Act, the origin of an article not wholly the growth, product, or manufacture of a single country or instrumentality is to be determined by the rule of substantial transformation. 19 U.S.C. § 2518(4). Such an article is not a product of a country unless it has been substantially transformed there into a new and different article of commerce with a name, character or use different from that of the article or articles from which it was transformed. *See also* 19 CFR

§ 177.23(a). Thus, the critical issue that must be addressed in determining the country of origin of "Mojave" and "Twister" is whether the imported foreign components are substantially transformed as a result of the operations performed in the U.S. That is, does the name, character or use of the foreign components change as a result of the processing and assembly operations performed to manufacture the notebook computers. In *Belcrest Linens v. United States*, 573 F. Supp. 1149 (CIT 1983), aff'd, 741 F.2d 1368 (Fed. Cir. 1984), the issue framed by the court was whether as a result of the assembly process the parts lose their identity and become an integral part of the new article. Assembly operations which are minimal or simple, as opposed to complex or meaningful, will generally not result in a substantial transformation. See C.S.D. 85-25. However, the issue of whether a substantial transformation occurs is determined on a case-by-case basis.

Dell contends that the chassis and other components of both Mojave and Twister undergo manufacturing processes resulting in customized notebook computers distinct from the components from which they were assembled. In this regard, Dell emphasizes that as distinguished from other companies' manual load, fixed image processes, Mojave and Twister are customer specific at the time of the order, and involve the loading of operational characteristics and the specific software capability requested by the customer. Dell points to the degree of expertise required to implement its proprietary FISH/FIDA manufacturing process, represented by its skilled programmers and engineers. Dell states that the interactions between various software packages and between hardware devices are resolved by Dell's FISH/FIDA process, which is not the case during a manual installation process (involving operational software from diskettes or CD ROMs). Accordingly, Dell argues that the assembly operations coupled with the unique customer-specific manufacturing process transform the foreign components into products, notebook computer systems, with a character and use distinct from the parts from which they were made.

Customs has previously considered the issue of whether the processing and assembly of electronic components into a finished article results in a substantial transformation of the individual components.

In Headquarters Ruling Letter (HRL) 711967 (March 17, 1980), Customs held that television sets which were assembled in Mexico with printed circuit boards, power transformers, yokes and tuners from Korea and picture tubes, cabinets, and additional wiring from the U.S. were products of

Mexico for country of origin marking purposes. The U.S. and Korean parts were substantially transformed by the processing performed in Mexico and all the components lost their individual identities to become integral parts of the new article.

In HRL 732170 (January 5, 1990), Customs held that a backless television cabinet containing a tuner, speaker and circuit board imported in the U.S., was substantially transformed there when assembled with a domestic color picture tube, deflection yoke, electron beam bender and degaussed coil, and a remote control into a finished television receiver. Customs stated that the imported components lost their individual identities as a result of the assembly operation in that they became integral parts of a new article—a television.

HRL 735608 (April 27, 1995) involved various scenarios pertaining to the assembly of a desktop computer in the U.S. and the Netherlands. In one of the scenarios, foreign components to be assembled in the U.S. included the case assembly (including the computer case, system power supply and floppy disc drive), partially completed motherboard, CPU (which controls the interpretation and execution of instructions and includes the arithmetic-logic unit and control unit), hard disc drive, slot board, keyboard BIOS and system BIOS (basic input and output system). Additional components manufactured in the U.S. or the Netherlands to be assembled into the finished desktop computers depending on the model included an additional floppy drive, CD ROM disk, and memory boards. In that case, Customs found that the foreign case assemblies, partially completed motherboards, hard disc drives and slot boards underwent a change in name, character and use as a result of the operations in the U.S. and lost their separate identities in becoming an integral part of a desktop computer. Customs noted that the finished article, a desktop computer, was visibly different from any of the individual foreign components, acquiring a new use, processing and displaying information. Accordingly, Customs held that the individual components underwent a substantial transformation as a result of the operations performed in the U.S.¹

¹ See also HRL 559336 dated March 13, 1996, where Customs found that foreign components (*i.e.*, clamshell base, LCD video display, hard disk drive, floppy disk drive, kA/C power adapter) used in the assembly of notebook computers under four scenarios were substantially transformed as a result of the assembly operations performed in the U.S. In that case, depending on the scenario, the clamshell was either complete when received or consisted of a separate top (video display component) and base, which may or may not have included the keyboard. It is also noted that in the various scenarios

Based on the totality of the circumstances of this case and consistent with the rulings cited above, we find that the foreign components that are used in the manufacture of the notebook computers Twister and Mojave in the manner described are substantially transformed as a result of the operations performed in the U.S. The name, character, and use of the foreign chassis in each case, hard disk drive, floppy disc drive, memory boards and other foreign components change as a result of the processing and other assembly operations performed in the U.S. Like the case assemblies in HRL 735608 and HRL 559336, the chassis', hard disk drives, floppy disc drives, memory boards and other components lose their separate identities and become an integral part of a notebook computer as a result of the assembly operations and other processing. The character and use of the foreign components are changed as a result of the operations performed, in that a new article, a notebook computer, is visibly different from any of the individual foreign components, acquiring a new use, processing and displaying information.

Holding

Based on the facts presented, foreign chassis', hard disk drives, floppy disks, memory boards and other foreign components, which are further processed and assembled into notebook computers in the U.S., in the manner described above, are substantially transformed as a result of the operations performed in the U.S. Accordingly, the country of origin of the notebook computers is the U.S.

Notice of this final determination will be given in the **Federal Register** as required by 19 CFR § 177.29. Any party-at-interest other than the party which requested this final determination may request, pursuant to 19 CFR § 177.31, that Customs reexamine the matter anew and issue a new final determination.

Any party-at-interest may, within 30 days after publication of the **Federal Register** notice referenced above, seek judicial review of this final determination before the Court of International Trade.

Sincerely,
Stuart P. Seidel,
Assistant Commissioner, Office of
Regulations and Rulings.

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presented, the CPU/daughterboard assembly, an essential component of the notebook computer, was produced in the U.S.