DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Agency Information Collection Activities: Form I–777, Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection; Comment Request


The Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will be submitting the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The information collection was previously published in the Federal Register on May 19, 2011, at 76 FR 28800, allowing for a 60-day public comment period. USCIS received one comment for this information collection.

The purpose of this notice is to allow an additional 30 days for public comments. Comments are encouraged and will be accepted until August 31, 2011. This process is conducted in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.10.

Written comments and/or suggestions regarding the item(s) contained in this notice, especially regarding the estimated public burden and associated response time, should be directed to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB). USCIS Desk Officer. Comments may be submitted to: USCIS, Chief, Regulatory Products Division, 20 Massachusetts Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20529–2020. Comments may also be submitted to DHS via facsimile to 202–272–0997 or via e-mail at uscisfrcomment@dhs.gov, and to the OMB USCIS Desk Officer via facsimile at 202–395–5806 or via e-mail at oira_submission@omb.eop.gov.

When submitting comments by e-mail please make sure to add OMB Control Number 1516–0042 in the subject box. Written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies should address one or more of the following four points:

1. Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. Evaluate the accuracy of the agencies estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
3. Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
4. Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Overview of this information collection:

1. Type of Information Collection: Extension of a currently approved information collection.
2. Title of the Form/Collection: Application for Replacement of Northern Mariana Card.
4. Affected public who will be asked or required to respond, as well as a brief abstract: Primary: Individuals or Households. Form I–777 is used by applicants applying for a Northern Mariana identification card if they received United States citizenship pursuant to Public law 94–241 (covenant to establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands).
5. An estimate of the total number of respondents and the amount of time estimated for an average respondent to respond: 100 responses at .50 hours (30 minutes) per response.

An estimate of the total public burden (in hours) associated with the collection: 14,985 annual burden hours.

If you need a copy of the information collection instrument, please visit the Web site at: http://www.regulations.gov.

We may also be contacted at: USCIS, Regulatory Products Division, 20 Massachusetts Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20529–2020; Telephone 202–272–8377.

Dated: July 26, 2011.

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[FR Doc. 2011–19317 Filed 7–29–11; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 9111–97–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Notice of Issuance of Final Determination Concerning a Certain Patient Transport Chair


ACTION: Notice of final determination.

SUMMARY: This document provides notice that U.S. Customs and Border Protection (“CBP”) has issued a final determination concerning the country of origin of a certain patient transport chair. Based upon the facts presented, CBP has concluded in the final determination that the U.S. is the country of origin of the patient transport chair for purposes of U.S. government procurement.

DATE: The final determination was issued on July 26, 2011. 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 on or before August 31, 2011.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elif Eroglu, Valuation and Special Programs Branch: (202) 325–0277.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that on July 26, 2011, pursuant to subpart B of part 177, Customs Regulations (19 CFR part 177, subpart B), CBP issued a final determination concerning the country of origin of the BREEZ patient transport chair which may be offered to the U.S. Government under an undesignated government procurement contract. This final determination, Headquarters
Ruling Letter (“HQ”) H156919, was issued at the request of Electro Kinetic Technologies 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). In the final determination, CBP has concluded that, based upon the facts presented, the assembly of the BREEZ patient transport chair in the U.S., from parts made in China, Canada, France, and the U.S., constitutes a substantial transformation, such that the U.S. is the country of origin of the finished article for purposes of U.S. government procurement.

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, CBP Regulations (19 CFR 177.30), provides 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.

Dated: July 26, 2011.

Sandra L. Bell,
Executive Director, Regulations and Rulings, Office of International Trade.

Attachment
HQ H156919
July 26, 2011
OT:RR-CTF:VS H156919 EE
CATEGORY: Marking
Robert Gardenier
M.E. Dey & Co., Inc.
700 W Virginia Street Suite 300
Milwaukee, WI 53204
RE: U.S. Government Procurement; Title III, Trade Agreements Act of 1979 (19 U.S.C. § 2511); Subpart B, Part 177, CBP Regulations; Patient Transport Chair
Dear Mr. Gardenier:
This is in response to your correspondence of March 14, 2011, telephone conference on June 10, 2011, and additional information you submitted on July 21, 2011, requesting a final determination on behalf of Electro Kinetic Technologies (“Electro Kinetic”), pursuant to subpart B of part 177, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (“CBP”) Regulations (19 C.F.R. § 177.21 et seq.). Under the pertinent regulations, which implement Title III of the Trade Agreements Act of 1979, as amended (19 U.S.C. § 2511 et seq.), CBP issues country of origin advisory rulings and final determinations as to whether an article is or would be a product of a designated country or instrumentality for the purpose of granting waivers of certain “Buy American” restrictions in U.S. law or practice for products offered for sale to the U.S. Government.

This final determination concerns the country of origin of the BREEZ patient transport chair. We note that Electro Kinetic is a party-at-interest within the meaning of 19 C.F.R. § 177.22(d)(1) and is entitled to request this final determination.

FACTS:
Electro Kinetic, headquartered in Germantown, Wisconsin, designs and manufactures ergonomically focused products used to transport people and materials within the retail, healthcare, and material handling industries. The merchandise at issue is the Electro Kinetic BREEZ patient transport chair engineered and assembled in the U.S. from U.S. and foreign components.

The BREEZ transport chair is intended to transport patients or mobility impaired individuals. With the drive system integrated into the wheelchair, the patient transport chair can be maneuvered through tight or crowded hallways, elevators and rooms, transporting patients up to 750 lbs.

The patient transport chair is produced in the U.S. from approximately 481 components. All of the components are of U.S., Chinese, Canadian, or French origin. The majority of the components are assembled in the U.S. into 26 subassemblies which are ultimately assembled with the remaining components into the final product.

You submitted the costed bill of materials for the patient transport chair. The significant materials which comprise the patient transport chair include: wheels, casters, arm weldments, anti-tip weldments, swivel locks, 17 cable assemblies, a transaxle subassembly (which includes a Chinese-origin transaxle), a circuit breaker, a guard plate, a static strap subassembly, a Chinese-origin frame base weldment, a garment rod, a control box subassembly (which includes a French-origin handle circuit board, a control box, a key switch subassembly, and a forward/reverse switch subassembly), an s-drive subassembly, tire assemblies (which include wheel rims and foam filled tires), a charger subassembly (which includes a Canadian-origin charger), a control box plate, a high back flip seat, and batteries. It takes approximately six and a half hours to produce the finished patient transport chair.

You state that the production of the BREEZ patient transport chair in the U.S. begins with the production of 17 cable subassemblies which include: positive and negative battery cable subassemblies, a handle cable subassembly, an emergency stop switch subassembly, a horn potentiometer subassembly, a speed potentiometer subassembly, a brake cable subassembly, a black horn cable subassembly, a controller cable subassembly, a brown horn cable subassembly, a charger cable subassembly, a motor cable subassembly, and a battery jumper subassembly.

Next, the s-drive, which is part of s-drive subassembly, is programmed for acceleration, deceleration, and speed profiles. The transaxle subassembly, static strap subassembly, control box subassembly, keyswitch subassembly, forward/reverse switch subassembly, s-drive subassembly, tire assemblies, and charger assembly are produced. The wheels are added to the transaxle subassembly and assembled onto the frame. The control box subassembly, circuit breaker, charger assembly, horn and battery subassemblies are then installed onto the frame.

In the final assembly stage, the rear casters, front anti-tip casters, seat, seat belt, headrest, arm rests, foot rests and the IV pole are installed.

You provided a copy of the product brochure for the BREEZ patient transport chair.

ISSUE:
What is the country of origin of the BREEZ patient transport chair for the purpose of U.S. government procurement?

LAW AND ANALYSIS:
Pursuant to subpart B of part 177, 19 C.F.R. § 177.21 et seq., which implements Title III of the Trade Agreements Act of 1979, as amended (19 U.S.C. § 2511 et seq.), CBP issues country of origin advisory rulings and final determinations as to whether an article is or would be a product of a designated country or instrumentality for the purposes of granting waivers of certain “Buy American” restrictions in U.S. law or practice for products offered for sale to the U.S. Government.

An article is a product of a country or instrumentality only if (i) it is wholly the growth, product, or manufacture of that country or instrumentality, or (ii) in the case of an article which consists in whole or in part of materials from another country or instrumentality, it has been substantially transformed into a new and different article of commerce with a name, character, or use distinct from that of the article or articles from which it was so transformed.

...
See also, 19 C.F.R. § 177.22(a).

In rendering advisory rulings and final determinations for purposes of U.S. government procurement, CBP applies the provisions of subpart B of part 177 consistent with the Federal Acquisition Regulations. See 19 C.F.R. § 177.21. In this regard, CBP recognizes that the Federal Acquisition Regulations restrict the U.S. Government’s purchase of products to U.S.-made or designated country end products for acquisitions subject to the TAA. See 48 C.F.R. § 25.403(c)(1). The Federal Acquisition Regulations define “U.S.-made end product” as:

* * * an article that is mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States or that is substantially transformed in the United States into a new and different article of commerce with a name, character, or use distinct from that of the article or articles from which it was transformed.

48 C.F.R. § 25.003.

In order to determine whether a substantial transformation occurs when components of various origins are assembled into completed products, CBP considers the totality of the circumstances and makes such determinations on a case-by-case basis. The country of origin of the item’s components, extent of the processing that occurs within a country, and whether such processing renders a product with a new name, character, and use are primary considerations in such cases. Additionally, factors such as the resources expended on product design and development, extent and nature of post-assembly inspection and testing procedures, and the degree of skill required during the actual manufacturing process may be relevant when determining whether a substantial transformation has occurred. No one factor is determinative.

In Headquarters Ruling Letter (“HQ”) H095239, dated June 2, 2010, CBP held that certain upright and recumbent exercise bikes, assembled in the U.S., were products of the U.S. for purposes of U.S. government procurement. The exercise bikes were assembled from a range of U.S. and foreign components and subassemblies. With the exception of the standard console assembly, all of the subassemblies, which were ultimately assembled to produce the final product, were produced in the U.S. In finding that the imported components were substantially transformed in the U.S., CBP stated that the assembly process that occurred in the U.S. was complex and meaningful, required the assembly of a large number of components, and rendered the final article with a new name, character, and use.

As in HQ H095239, the BREEZ patient transport chair comprises the assembly of a large number of components, namely, 481 components. The majority of the components are assembled in the U.S. into 26 subassemblies which are then assembled with the remaining components into the finished patient transport chair. It takes approximately six and a half hours to produce the finished patient transport chair. We find that under the described assembly process, the foreign components lose their individual identities and become an integral part of the article, the patient transport chair, possessing a new name, character and use. The assembly process that occurs in the U.S. is complex and meaningful, involving the assembly of components into subassemblies which are then made into the final product. Therefore, based upon the information before us, we find that the imported components that are used to manufacture the patient transport chair are substantially transformed as a result of the assembly operations performed in the U.S. and that the country of origin of the patient transport chair for government procurement purposes is the U.S.

HOLDING:

The imported components that are used to manufacture the BREEZ patient transport chair are substantially transformed as a result of the assembly operations performed in the U.S. Therefore, we find that the country of origin of the BREEZ patient transport chair for government procurement purposes is the U.S.

Notice of this final determination will be given in the Federal Register, as required by 19 C.F.R. § 177.29. Any party-at-interest other than the party which requested this final determination may request, pursuant to 19 C.F.R. § 177.31, that CBP reexamine the matter anew and issue a new final determination. Pursuant to 19 C.F.R. § 177.30, 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,

Sandra L. Bell, Executive Director, Regulations and Rulings, Office of International Trade

[FR Doc. 2011–19400 Filed 7–29–11; 8:45 am]