

procurement. HP cites HQ 560677, dated February 3, 1998, to support the argument that the assembly operations coupled with the BIOS download transform discrete and inoperable components into a finished product with a different name, character and use. In HQ 560677, CBP considered two different notebook computers manufactured in the U.S. with parts and components from various countries. In the first scenario, the imported chassis included the LCD and the CPU from various countries, but the BIOS and memory modules were not included. Other imported components were the hard disk drive (Thailand), BIOS chip (U.S.), floppy disk drive (China), AC adapter (China), CD ROM (Japan), fax modem cards (U.S.), a docking station (Taiwan), and memory board (Korea, Japan, or Singapore). The assembly process in the U.S. consisted of installing the BIOS chip (which was of U.S. origin), the memory modules, the hard disk drive, the network interface card, and downloading the flash BIOS into non-volatile RAM. In the second scenario, the imported chassis included the LCD screen (Taiwan), the floppy disc drive (China), and the BIOS chip but neither the keyboard, the CPU nor other primary chips were included. Similar components as in the first scenario were imported and the assembly process in the U.S. consisted of installing the CPU processor module (of U.S. origin), the hybrid cooler, the keyboard, the memory modules, the hard disk drive, the PCMCIA modem card, and downloading the flash BIOS into non-volatile RAM. CBP concluded that the foreign components used in the manufacture of the notebook computers lost their separate identities and became an integral part of a notebook computer as a result of the operations performed in the U.S.

HQ H241177, dated December 3, 2013, Ethernet switches were assembled to completion in Malaysia and then shipped to Singapore, where U.S.-origin software was downloaded onto the switches. CBP found that the software downloading performed in Singapore did not amount to programming and that the country of origin was Malaysia, where the last substantial transformation occurred.

In this case, the base unit is assembled in Country A and it includes the antennae, printed circuit assembly, CPU, BIOS chip, keyboard, cables, connectors, and speakers. The base unit is imported into Country F and the BIOS from Country D is downloaded. Based on the facts in this case and consistent with the Customs rulings cited above, we find that under Scenarios 1 and 2, the last substantial transformation of the Elitebook components occurs in Country A. Most of the major components are sourced in Country A, unlike HQ 560677, where the components came from various countries and in each scenario a major component (BIOS chip or CPU) was of U.S. origin, where the assembly occurred. Further, downloading the BIOS does not substantially transform the Elitebook. Therefore, we find that the country of origin for purposes of U.S. Government procurement in Scenarios 1 and 2 is Country A.

#### Scenario 3:

In Scenario 3, all of the hardware components are assembled in Country A and imported into Country F. The operations that occur in Country F are BIOS download, OS download, testing, quality control and packaging. The issue is whether the downloading of the BIOS and OS substantially transforms the notebook computer. As indicated above, the programming of a device that defines its use generally constitutes a substantial transformation. Software downloading by itself, however, does not amount to programming, which involves writing, testing and implementing code necessary to make a computer function in a certain way. See HQ H241177 (Dec. 3, 2013) *supra*, see also *Data General supra*.

Consistent with the Customs rulings cited above, we find that the BIOS and OS downloading does not result in a substantial transformation in Country F. Given these facts, we find that the country where the last substantial transformation occurs is Country A, where the major assembly processes are performed. The country of origin for purposes of U.S. Government procurement in Scenario 3 is Country A.

#### Scenario 4:

Here, all of the hardware components are assembled in Country A and imported into Country D. In Country D, the BIOS and OS are downloaded and the Elitebook is tested for quality assurance and packaged. As indicated above, software downloading by itself does not result in a substantial transformation. Consistent with the Customs rulings cited above, we find that the country where the last substantial transformation occurs is Country A, where the major assembly processes are performed. The country of origin for purposes of U.S. Government procurement in Scenario 4 is Country A.

#### HOLDING:

Based on the facts of this case, we find that in Scenarios 1, 2, 3, and 4, the last substantial transformation takes place in Country A. The country of origin of the Elitebook is Country A for purposes of U.S. Government procurement and country of origin marking.

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 CBP reexamine the matter anew and issue a new final determination. Pursuant to 19 CFR § 177.30, any party-at-interest may, within 30 days of publication of the **Federal Register** Notice referenced above, seek judicial review of this final determination before the Court of International Trade.

Sincerely,

Glen E. Vereb  
Acting Executive Director, Regulations and  
Rulings, Office of International Trade

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**BILLING CODE 9111-14-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### Federal Emergency Management Agency

[Docket ID FEMA-2015-0006]

#### Notice of Public Meetings on the Proposed Revised Guidelines for Implementing Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, As Revised Through the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard

**AGENCY:** Federal Emergency Management Agency, DHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice is to announce two public meetings to solicit public input on the proposed "Revised Guidelines for Implementing Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management."

**DATES:** The first public meeting will be held in Fairfax, VA on March 24, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET). The second public meeting will be held by webinar on March 25, 2015, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET).

**ADDRESSES:** The first public meeting will be held in Fairfax, VA, at George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Jackson Center Building #30, Fairfax, VA 22030. The second public meeting will be by webinar.

For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance at the meeting, please contact the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section by March 20.

Due to space constraints of the facility, seating will be limited to 300 participants for the Fairfax, VA meeting. To reserve a seat in advance for this meeting, or the webinar, please provide a request via email or mail with the contact information of the participant (including name, mailing address, and email address), the meeting(s) to be attended, and include the subject/attention line (or on the envelope if by mail): Reservation Request for FFRMS Meeting. Advance reservations must be received 3 business days prior to each meeting to ensure processing. Unregistered participants will be accepted after all participants with reservations have been accommodated and will be admitted on a first-come, first-serve basis, provided the person capacity is not exceeded. To submit reservations, please email: [FEMA-FFRMS@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-FFRMS@fema.dhs.gov) or send by mail to the address listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** caption.

To facilitate public participation, members of the public are invited to

provide written comments on the issues to be considered at the public meetings. Comments may be submitted by one of the following methods:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- **Mail:** Regulatory Affairs Division, Office of Chief Counsel, FEMA, 500 C Street SW., Room 8NE, Washington, DC 20472–3100.

**Instructions:** All submissions received must include the docket ID FEMA–2015–0006. Comments received will be posted without alteration at <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided.

**Docket:** For access to the docket to read comments received, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>, and search for the Docket ID FEMA–2015–0006.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bradley Garner, 202–646–3901 or [FEMA-FFRMS@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-FFRMS@fema.dhs.gov). Mailing Address: FFRMS, 1800 South Bell Street, Room 627, Arlington, VA 20598–3030. The Web site is <https://www.fema.gov/federal-flood-risk-management-standard-ffrms>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On January 30, 2015, the President signed Executive Order 13690, directing FEMA, on behalf of the Mitigation Framework Leadership Group, to publish for public comment draft revised Floodplain Management Guidelines to provide guidance to agencies on the implementation of Executive Order 11988, as amended, consistent with a new Federal Flood Risk Management Standard. These draft revised Guidelines were developed by the Mitigation Framework Leadership Group in consultation with the Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force. FEMA is publishing this Notice on behalf of the Mitigation Framework Leadership Group, which is chaired by FEMA, to solicit and consider public input on the draft revised Guidelines at two public meetings.

Background information about these topics is available on the FFRMS Web site at <https://www.fema.gov/federal-flood-risk-management-standard-ffrms> or in the docket for this Notice at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), Docket ID FEMA–2015–0006.

These meetings are exempt from the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as the Mitigation Framework Leadership Group is an intergovernmental committee and falls under the intergovernmental committee exception to FACA, 41 CFR 102–3.40(g).

**Authority:** Executive Order 11988, as amended; Executive Order 13690.

Dated: March 6, 2015.

**Roy Wright,**

*Deputy Associate Administrator for Mitigation, Federal Emergency Management Agency.*

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**BILLING CODE 9111–47–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### U.S. Customs and Border Protection [1651–0007]

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Application for Allowance in Duties

**AGENCY:** U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security.

**ACTION:** 30-Day notice and request for comments; revision of an existing collection of information.

**SUMMARY:** U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) of the Department of Homeland Security will be submitting the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act: Application for Allowance in Duties. CBP is proposing that this information collection be extended with no change to the burden hours. This document is published to obtain comments from the public and affected agencies.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before April 15, 2015 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on this proposed information collection to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget. Comments should be addressed to the OMB Desk Officer for Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, and sent via electronic mail to [oir\\_submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:oir_submission@omb.eop.gov) or faxed to (202) 395–5806.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information should be directed to Tracey Denning, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Regulations and Rulings, Office of International Trade, 90 K Street NE., 10th Floor, Washington, DC 20229–1177, at 202–325–0265.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This proposed information collection was previously published in the **Federal Register** (79 FR 77019) on December 23, 2014, allowing for a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an

additional 30 days for public comments. This process is conducted in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.10. CBP invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–13; 44 U.S.C. 3507). The comments should address: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimates of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden, including the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology; and (e) the annual costs to respondents or record keepers from the collection of information (total capital/startup costs and operations and maintenance costs). The comments that are submitted will be summarized and included in the CBP request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. In this document, CBP is soliciting comments concerning the following information collection:

**Title:** Application for Allowance in Duties.

**OMB Number:** 1651–0007.

**Form Number:** Form 4315.

**Abstract:** CBP Form 4315, “Application for Allowance in Duties,” is submitted to CBP in instances of claims of damaged or defective imported merchandise on which an allowance in duty is made in the liquidation of the entry. The information on this form is used to substantiate an importer's claim for such duty allowances. CBP Form 4315 is authorized by 19 U.S.C. 1506 and provided for by 19 CFR 158.11, 158.13 and 158.23. This form is accessible at: [http://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/documents/CBP%20Form%204315\\_0.pdf](http://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/documents/CBP%20Form%204315_0.pdf).

**Action:** CBP proposes to extend the expiration date of this information collection with no change to the burden hours or to Form 4315.

**Type of Review:** Extension (without change).

**Affected Public:** Businesses.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 12,000.

**Estimated Number of Total Annual Responses:** 12,000.

**Estimated Time per Response:** 8 minutes.

**Estimated Annual Burden Hours:** 1,600.