

Public scoping is a process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed in this EIS and for identifying the issues related to the proposed action that may have a significant effect on the project environment. The scoping process begins with publication of this notice and ends after the U.S. Coast Guard has:

- Invited the participation of Federal, State, and local agencies, any affected Indian tribe, and other interested persons;

- Consulted with affected Federally Recognized Tribes on a government-to-government basis, and with affected Alaska Native corporations, in accordance with Executive Order 13175 and other policies. Native concerns, including impacts on Indian trust assets and potential impacts to cultural resources, will be given appropriate consideration;

- Requested the Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers to serve as cooperating agencies in the preparation of this EIS. With this Notice of Intent, we are asking Federal, State, and local agencies with jurisdiction or special expertise with respect to environmental issues in the project area, in addition to those we have already contacted, to formally cooperate with us in the preparation of this EIS;

- Determined the scope and the issues to be analyzed in depth in the EIS;

- Allocated responsibility for preparing the EIS components;

- Indicated any related environmental assessments or environmental impact statements that are not part of this EIS;

- Identified other relevant environmental review and consultation requirements, such as Coastal Zone Management Act consistency determinations, and threatened and endangered species and habitat impacts;

- Indicated the relationship between timing of the environmental review and other aspects of the application process; and

- Exercised our option under 40 CFR 1501.7(b) to hold the public scoping meeting announced in this notice.

Once the scoping process is complete, the U.S. Coast Guard will prepare a draft EIS, and will publish a **Federal Register** notice announcing its public availability. We will provide the public with an opportunity to review and comment on the draft EIS. Comments received during the draft EIS review period will be available in the public docket and made available in the final EIS. After the U.S. Coast Guard

considers those comments, we will prepare the final EIS and similarly announce its availability and solicit public review and comment.

IV. Information Requested

We are seeking comments on the potential environmental impacts that may result from the development, building, testing, and operation of up to three heavy polar icebreakers and potentially three medium icebreakers to help in the development of an EIS. NEPA requires Federal agencies to consider environmental impacts that may result from a proposed action, to inform the public of potential impacts and alternatives, and to facilitate public involvement in the assessment process. An EIS would include, among other matters, discussions of the purpose and need for the proposed action, a description of alternatives, a description of the affected environment, and an evaluation of the environmental impacts of the proposed action and alternatives.

As required by the NEPA, the U.S. Coast Guard also will analyze the No Action Alternative as a baseline for comparing the impacts of the proposed action. For the purposes of this proposed action, the No Action Alternative is defined as not approving the design and build of new polar icebreakers. The U.S. Coast Guard encourages public participation in the EIS process. The scoping period will begin upon publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** and continue for a period of sixty (60) days. As part of the scoping process, and as authorized by 40 CFR 1508.22(b)(4), the U.S. Coast Guard will hold a public scoping meeting and informational open house in Anchorage, Utqiagvik (Barrow), Nome, and Kotzebue, Alaska in May 2018. Public comments will be accepted at those meetings and can also be submitted to the docket, as previously described under **ADDRESSES**.

V. Public Participation and Request for Comments

Pursuant to the CEQ regulations, the U.S. Coast Guard invites public participation in the NEPA process. This notice requests public participation in the scoping process, establishes a public comment period, and provides information on how to participate.

We encourage you to submit comments through the Federal portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. If your material cannot be submitted using <http://www.regulations.gov>, contact the person in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document for alternate instructions. In your submission, please include the docket

number for this notice of intent and provide a reason for each suggestion or recommendation.

We accept anonymous comments. All comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov> and will include any personal information you have provided. For more about privacy and the docket, visit <http://www.regulations.gov/privacyNotice>.

Documents mentioned in this notice of intent as being available in the docket, and all public comments, will be in our online docket at <http://www.regulations.gov> and can be viewed by following that website's instructions.

We plan to hold public meetings in Anchorage, Utqiagvik (Barrow), Nome, and Kotzebue to receive oral comments on this notice of intent. The dates, times, and locations of the public meetings will be announced in the local papers (The Arctic Sounder, The Anchorage Daily News, and The Nome Nugget) and online at <http://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Acquisitions-CG-9/Programs/Surface-Programs/Polar-Icebreaker/>. If special assistance is required to attend the meetings, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, contact the U.S. Coast Guard as indicated in **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Dated: April 23, 2018.

Ahmedur Majumder,

Deputy Program Manager, Polar Icebreaker Program, United States Coast Guard.

[FR Doc. 2018-08795 Filed 4-25-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9110-04-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Notice of Issuance of Final Determination Concerning Axion Series Led Video Display Cabinets

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

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 Axion series LED video display cabinets. Based upon the facts presented, CBP has concluded in the final determination that Taiwan is the country of origin of the Axion series LED video display cabinets for purposes of U.S. Government procurement.

DATES: The final determination was issued on April 19, 2018. 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 May 29, 2018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cynthia Reese, Valuation and Special Programs Branch, Regulations and Rulings, Office of Trade (202–325–0046).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that on April 19, 2018, CBP issued a final determination concerning the country of origin of Axion series LED video display cabinets which may be offered to the United States Government under an undesignated government procurement contract. This final determination, HQ H292849, was issued at the request of Vanguard LED Displays, Inc., 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 imported components does not substantially transform the components into a product of the United States, and therefore, the assembled Axion series LED video display cabinets derive their origin from the imported components, nearly all of which originate in Taiwan. Therefore, Taiwan is the country of origin of the Axion series LED video display cabinets for purposes of U.S. Government procurement.

Section 177.29, CBP 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: April 19, 2018.

Alice A. Kipel,

*Executive Director, Regulations and Rulings,
Office of Trade.*

HQ H292849

April 19, 2018

OT:RR:CTF:VS H292849 CMR

CATEGORY: Origin

Frank S. Murray, Esq.

Foley & Lardner LLP

Washington Harbour

3000 K Street, NW

Suite 600

Washington, DC 20007

RE: U.S. Government Procurement; Title III, Trade Agreements Act of 1979 (19 U.S.C. 2511); subpart B, Part 177, CBP Regulations; Light Emitting Diode video display cabinets

Dear Mr. Murray:

This is in response to your request of December 15, 2017, on behalf of your client, Vanguard LED Displays, Inc. (hereinafter, Vanguard), requesting a final determination concerning Light Emitting Diode (LED) video display cabinets for purposes of government procurement under Title III of the Trade Agreements Act of 1979 (TAA), as amended (19 U.S.C. § 2511 *et seq.*). Vanguard is a party-at-interest within the meaning of 19 CFR § 177.22(d)(1) and (d)(2), and is entitled to request this final determination under 19 CFR § 177.23(a) and (b).

FACTS:

Vanguard seeks a country of origin determination regarding its Axion series LED video display cabinets, model numbers P1 through P2.5. The video display cabinets are of a uniform size, 640 mm by 360 mm. There are 11 different models offering different degrees of “pixel pitch.” This request is limited to the first nine models in the series, *i.e.*, P1, P1.2, P1.3, P1.4, P1.5, P1.6, P1.8, P2, P2.5.

You explain that:

The Axion series LED video display cabinets receive electronic signals and convert those signals into images that are displayed via the LEDs on the face of the cabinet. They are used by customers to display video images. The Axion series LED video cabinets can be used on a stand-alone basis, but are more commonly attached to other cabinets to create a much larger video screen, such as for the presentation of video images to large audiences.

Vanguard manufactures, sells and distributes LED video display cabinets for both indoor and outdoor use. With regard to the Axion series LED video display cabinets at issue, Vanguard imports the components of the video display cabinets and assembles the cabinets from the imported components at their facility in Lakeland, Florida. You indicate that the components of the Axion series LED video display cabinets (some of which are imported with pre-packaged screws for use in assembling the components to the display cabinet) are:

LED Modules—Manufactured in Taiwan. Each cabinet includes eight LED modules. Each LED module is composed of two subcomponents—LEDs and LED display drivers. These subcomponents are manufactured in

Taiwan. The quantity of LEDs and LED display drivers in each LED module depends upon the desired pixel pitch of the video display.

Receiving Card—Manufactured in China.

Printed Circuit Board (PCB)—Manufactured in Taiwan.

Hub Card—Manufactured in Taiwan.

Power Supply—Manufactured in Taiwan.

Cabinet—Manufactured in China.

You indicate that the LED modules are specifically designed to be used in a particular LED video display, based upon the desired pixel pitch and the size of the cabinet, as ordered by a customer. The PCB is custom-made to meet the criteria specifically requested. While a particular PCB board could theoretically be used in another LED video display, it could not be used in other types of LED goods. The hub card is designed to specifically handle the particular receiving card designed to be used in the specific LED video display as ordered by the customer. In theory, it could be used in a different LED video display, but it could not be used in other types of LED goods. Similarly, the receiving card, power supply, and cabinet can be used in other LED video displays, but cannot be used in other types of LED goods.

You state that the LEDs constitute the majority of the component costs of the video display cabinets. You describe the function of the LEDs as “a type of semiconductor that conveys electronic signals into infrared-rays or light.” The LED display driver is described as “an integrated circuit that provides the circuitry necessary to interface most common microprocessors or digital systems to an LED display. [It] is an electrical device that regulates the power to an LED or a string (or strings) of LEDs.” The receiving card “reads the program commands from the sending card or the computer transmitting the signals regulating the brightness/chromaticity of the LEDs.” The PCB “mechanically and electrically connects electronic components.” Vanguard receives the PCB with the hub card integrated onto the PCB. The hub card “sends power to the LED modules, as well as instructions/information from the receiving card. The LED modules and the receiving card are attached to the PCB by Vanguard. The power supply component receives electrical power from an external source and provides power to the electrical components of the LED video cabinet. Finally, the cabinet, a die-cast aluminum cabinet, provides the structure into which the other

components are installed to create a video display cabinet.

You describe the assembly process in the United States as follows:

1. Attaching and affixing (via screws) the power cable to the cabinet frame.

2. Affixing the power supply to its mount via screws and connecting the power cable to the power supply's adapter.

3. Placing the integrated PCB/hub card assembly on top of the previously attached components, centered in the cabinet, and affixing the PCB/hub card assembly (via screws) to the power supply.

4. Affixing the integrated PCB/hub assembly (via screws) to the cabinet.

5. Affixing the receiving card to the integrated PCB/hub card assembly via a notch in the hub card. (The hub card . . . has a notch into which the receiving card is to be installed.)

6. Installing each of the eight magnetized LED modules into the cabinet by attaching them to their respective data/power slots in the integrated PCB/hub card assembly.

After the video display cabinets are assembled, Vanguard tests them to ensure they function properly. Then, the video display cabinets are packaged for shipment to customers. You indicate that the processing in the United States, including the assembly, testing, and packaging generally requires no more than a day to complete, with the testing and packaging taking more time than the assembly.

You submit that the manufacturing processes which occur in Taiwan to create the Taiwanese components of the video display cabinet are more complex than the assembly process which occurs in the United States or the manufacturing processes which occur in China to create the two components of Chinese origin utilized in the assembly of the finished video display cabinets. In addition, you indicate that the collective value of the Taiwanese-manufactured components is overwhelmingly the majority of the component costs of the completed video display cabinets. Thus, you submit that the country of origin of the finished video display cabinets is Taiwan.

ISSUE:

What is the country of origin of the Axion series LED video display cabinets described herein for U.S. government procurement purposes?

LAW AND ANALYSIS:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (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, pursuant to subpart B of Part 177, 19 CFR 177.21 *et seq.*, which implements Title III, Trade Agreements Act of 1979, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2511–2518).

The rule of origin set forth in 19 U.S.C. 2518(4)(B) states:

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 CFR 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 Procurement Regulations. *See* 19 CFR 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 CFR 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.

The regulations define a "designated country end product" as:

WTO GPA [World Trade Organization Government Procurement Agreement] country end product, an FTA [Free Trade Agreement] country end product, a least developed country end product, or a Caribbean Basin country end product.

A "WTO GPA country end product" is defined as an article that:

(1) Is wholly the growth, product, or manufacture of a WTO GPA country; or

(2) In the case of an article that consists in whole or in part of materials from another country, has been substantially transformed in a WTO GPA country 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. The term refers to a product offered for purchase under a supply contract, but for purposes of calculating the value of the end product includes services (except transportation services) incidental to the article, provided that the value of those incidental services does not exceed that of the article itself.

See 48 CFR 25.003.

Taiwan is a WTO GPA country; China is not.

In the Court of International Trade's decision in *Energizer Battery, Inc. v. United States*, 190 F. Supp. 3d 1308 (2016), the court interpreted the meaning of "substantial transformation" as used in the Trade Agreements Act of 1979 for purposes of government procurement. *Energizer* involved the determination of the country of origin of a flashlight, referred to as the Generation II flashlight, under the TAA. Other than a white LED and a hydrogen getter, all of the components of the Generation II flashlight were of Chinese origin. The components were imported into the United States where they were assembled into the finished Generation II flashlight.

The court reviewed the "name, character and use" test in determining whether a substantial transformation had occurred, and reviewed various court decisions involving substantial transformation determinations. The court noted, citing *Uniroyal, Inc. v. United States*, 3 CIT 220, 226, 542 F. Supp. 1026, 1031, *aff'd*, 702 F.2d 1022 (Fed. Cir. 1983), that when "the post-importation processing consists of assembly, courts have been reluctant to find a change in character, particularly when the imported articles do not undergo a physical change." *Energizer* at 1318. In addition, the court noted that "when the end-use was pre-determined at the time of importation, courts have generally not found a change in use." *Energizer* at 1319, citing as an example, *National Hand Tool Corp. v. United States*, 16 CIT 308, 310, *aff'd* 989 F.2d 1201 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Furthermore, courts have considered the nature of the assembly, *i.e.*, whether it is a simple assembly or more complex, such that individual parts lose their separate identities and become integral parts of a new article.

In reaching its decision in *Energizer*, the court expressed the question as one of whether the imported components retained their names after they were assembled into the finished Generation II flashlights. The court found "[t]he constitutive components of the Generation II flashlight do not lose their

individual names as a result [of] the post-importation assembly.” The court also found that the components had a pre-determined end-use as parts and components of a Generation II flashlight at the time of importation and did not undergo a change in use due to the post-importation assembly process. Finally, the court did not find the assembly process to be sufficiently complex as to constitute a substantial transformation. Thus, the court found that Energizer’s imported components did not undergo a change in name, character, or use as a result of the post-importation assembly of the components into a finished Generation II flashlight. The court determined that China, the source of all but two components, was the correct country of origin of the finished Generation II flashlights under the government procurement provisions of the TAA.

The production process of the Axion series LED video display cabinets is similar to that of the Generation II flashlight in *Energizer*. All but two components are sourced from Taiwan. The post-importation assembly process involves manual assembly of components that are dedicated for use as components of the LED video display cabinets. The individual components do not lose their separate identities as a result of the assembly process and do not undergo a change in their pre-determined uses. The assembly process, while more time consuming than that in *Energizer*, is not sufficiently complex as to amount to a substantial transformation of the imported components. Considering the totality of the information provided to CBP, and relying upon the court’s application of substantial transformation in *Energizer*, we find that the country of origin of the assembled Axion series LED video display cabinets, produced as described herein, is Taiwan.

HOLDING:

Based on the information provided, and the analysis set forth above, the imported components of the Axion series LED video display cabinets are not substantially transformed as a result of their assembly in the United States. Therefore, the country of origin of the assembled Axion series LED video display cabinets at issue, is Taiwan, the country where all of the components of the Axion series LED video display cabinets, except two, are made.

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 after publication of the **Federal Register** notice referenced above, seek judicial review of this final determination before the Court of International Trade.

Sincerely,

Alice A. Kipel,

*Executive Director Regulations and Rulings
Office of Trade.*

[FR Doc. 2018–08811 Filed 4–25–18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Federal Emergency Management Agency

[Docket ID: FEMA–2018–0014; OMB No. 1660–0073]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; National Urban Search and Rescue Response System

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency, DHS.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Federal Emergency Management Agency, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public to take this opportunity to comment on an extension, without change, of a currently approved information collection. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice seeks comments concerning the Urban Search and Rescue Response System information collection.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before June 25, 2018.

ADDRESSES: To avoid duplicate submissions to the docket, please use only one of the following means to submit comments:

(1) *Online.* Submit comments at www.regulations.gov under Docket ID FEMA–2018–0014. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

(2) *Mail.* Submit written comments to Docket Manager, Office of Chief Counsel, DHS/FEMA, 500 C Street SW, 8NE, Washington, DC 20472–3100.

All submissions received must include the agency name and Docket ID. Regardless of the method used for submitting comments or material, all submissions will be posted, without change, to the Federal eRulemaking

Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>, and will include any personal information you provide. Therefore, submitting this information makes it public. You may wish to read the Privacy Act notice that is available via the link in the footer of www.regulations.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Wanda Casey, Chief, Program Management Section, US&R Branch, FEMA, Response Directorate, Operations Division, at (202) 646–4013. You may contact the Information Management Division for copies of the proposed collection of information at email address: FEMA-Information-Collections-Management@fema.dhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 303 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), 42 U.S.C. 5144, authorizes the President of the United States to form emergency support teams of Federal personnel to be deployed to an area affected by major disaster or emergency. Section 403(a)(3)(B) of the Stafford Act provides that the President may authorize Federal Agencies to perform work on public or private lands essential to save lives and protect property, including search and rescue and emergency medical care, and other essential needs. Section 327 of the Stafford Act further authorizes the National US&R Response System (“the System”) and outlines the Administrator’s authorization to designate teams as well as outlines specific protections for System members.

The information collection activity authorized under the OMB circular, 2 CFR part 200, “Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements, for Federal Awards.” The collection contains information from the programmatic and administrative activities of the US&R Sponsoring Agencies relating to the readiness and response cooperative agreement awards.

Collection of Information

Title: National Urban Search and Rescue Response System.

Type of Information Collection: Extension, without change, of a currently approved information collection.

OMB Number: 1660–0073.

FEMA Forms: FEMA Form 089–0–10, Urban Search Rescue Response System Narrative Statement Workbook; FEMA Form 089–0–11, Urban Search Rescue Response System Semi-Annual Performance Report; FEMA Form 089–0–12, Urban Search Rescue Response