

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Electrification Administration

July 28, 1955

*Reviewed and Approved
For Reprinting 02/83*

REA Bulletin 43-9 (Electrification), 344-3 (Telephone), "'Buy American' Requirement," attached, deals with compliance with "Buy American" provisions of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended.

In the past, it was necessary, with few exceptions, for borrowers to obtain special authorization from REA when purchasing foreign articles, materials and supplies. It will no longer be necessary to do so if:

1. The articles, materials and supplies are determined by the borrower to be manufactured "substantially all" from articles, materials or supplies mined, produced or manufactured in the United States, under the test applied in paragraph IV. B., that is, that the cost of the products of foreign origin used therein constitutes less than fifty percent of the cost thereof; or
2. The six percent price differential of paragraph IV. C. exists, in the case of articles, materials and supplies determined to be of foreign origin under paragraph IV. B.

Borrowers may request specific authorization from REA for the purchase of foreign products not meeting one or the other of the above conditions.

Attachment

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Electrification Administration

July 28, 1955

REA BULLETIN 43-9 (Electrification)

REA Bulletin 344-3 (Telephone)

SUBJECT: "Buy American" Requirement

- I. **Purpose:** To notify borrowers and their engineers, contractors and materialmen, regarding compliance with the "Buy American" requirement in connection with the expenditure of REA loan funds. The term "materials" includes articles, supplies and equipment, and each item thereof, whether acquired by purchase order, contract, or otherwise.

- II. **Statutory Provision:** The Rural Electrification Act, as amended, includes the following provision:

"In making loans pursuant to this title and pursuant to the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, the Administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration shall require that, to the extent practicable and the cost of which is not unreasonable, the borrower agree to use in connection with the expenditure of such funds only such unmanufactured articles, materials, and supplies, as have been mined or produced in the United States, and only such manufactured articles, materials, and supplies as have been manufactured in the United States substantially all from articles, materials, or supplies mined, produced or manufactured, as the case may be, in the United States."

All loan contracts between REA and its borrowers contain a provision requiring compliance with this statutory requirement. REA standard forms of construction contracts, materials and equipment contracts and purchase orders contain similar provisions.

- III. **"Buy American" Certificates:** Borrowers have heretofore been required to furnish REA with "Buy American" certificates executed by their contractors and suppliers. Such certificates need no longer be furnished to REA, except when specifically requested. However, borrowers shall continue to remain responsible for compliance with the "Buy American" requirement by their contractors and suppliers.

IV. Determinations Under "Buy American" Requirement:

A. Applicability of Executive Order 10582:

Executive Order 10582, issued on December 17, 1954 and published in Volume 19 Federal Register No. 246 (issue of December 21, 1954) is hereby applied as provided herein to purchases of materials made with REA loan funds. Where such purchases are made with general funds, the requirements of this Bulletin will be applicable if reimbursement from REA loan funds is sought for such expenditures.

B. Manufactured Materials:

Manufactured materials are considered to be of foreign origin for the purpose of compliance with the "Buy American" requirement if the cost of the foreign products used therein constitutes fifty percent or more of the cost of all products used therein. The term "foreign products" means only those components of manufactured materials which are directly incorporated therein but does not include materials used in the manufacture of such components.

C. Price Differential:

Where the bid or offered price of materials of domestic origin exceeds the bid or offered price of like materials of foreign origin by a sum determined by computing six percent of the bid or offered price of materials of foreign origin, delivered at the place specified by the borrower including applicable duty and all costs incurred after arrival in the United States, purchases of such materials of foreign origin are deemed to be in compliance with the "Buy American" requirement.

D. Availability of Domestic Materials:

Where materials of foreign origin do not meet the price differential requirement of paragraph C above, borrowers may nevertheless request authorization from the Administrator to purchase such materials upon a showing that the purchase of domestic materials is not practicable on the ground that:

1. Like or comparable products are not available from domestic sources; or
2. Like or comparable products of domestic origin are in such short supply as to unduly delay the borrower's construction progress.

E. Materials Constituting Only Part of a Purchase Order or Contract:

Where a supplier or contractor offers or furnishes several items under a purchase order or contract, the provisions of this Bulletin are applicable to each of such items. If any such items do not meet the requirements of paragraphs IV. B. or IV. C., borrowers may request the Administrator's authorization to acquire such items in the same manner as provided in paragraph IV. D.

This Bulletin supersedes all other existing material in conflict with its provisions.


Administrator

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Forest Service****Forest Counties Payments Committee****AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Forest Counties Payments Committee has scheduled a meeting on November 29, 2001, to discuss how it will provide Congress with the information specified in Section 320 of the Fiscal Year 2001 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. In order to develop its recommendations to Congress, the Committee would like to hear from both elected officials and the general public. The meeting will consist of a public input session from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon.

DATES: The meeting will be held on November 29, 2001.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Wyndham Hotel, 2910 Yale SE, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106.

Those who cannot be present may submit written responses to the questions listed under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** in this notice to Randle G. Phillips, Executive Director, Forest Counties Payments Committee, P.O. Box 34718, Washington, DC 20043-4713, (202) 208-6574 or electronically to rphillips01@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Randle G. Phillips, Executive Director, Forest Counties Payments Committee, (202) 208-6574; or via e-mail at rphillips01@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 320 of the 2001 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (Pub L. 106-389) authorizes the payments to States and counties from monies derived from receipts collected on Federal lands. These payments are to be used for the benefit of public education and other public purposes. The Act also created a Forest Counties Payments Committee to gather input from the public and elected officials to help develop recommendations to Congress on a long-term solution for making payments to eligible States and counties in which Federal lands are situated. The Committee will evaluate the methods and use of these payments. The Committee will also consider the impact on eligible States and counties of revenues from the historic multiple use of Federal lands; evaluate the economic, environmental, and social benefits which accrue to counties containing Federal lands; evaluate the expenditures by counties on activities occurring on Federal lands which are Federal

responsibilities; and monitor payments and implementation of the Act.

At the November 29 meeting in Albuquerque, the Committee asks that respondents provide information that is responsive to the following questions:

1. Do counties receive their fair share of federal revenue-sharing payments made to eligible States?
2. What difficulties exist in complying with, and managing all of the federal revenue-sharing payments programs? Are some more difficult than others?
3. What economic, social, and environmental costs do counties incur as a result of the presence of public lands within their boundaries?
4. What economic, social, and environmental benefits do counties realize as a result of public lands within their boundaries?
5. What are the economic and social effects from changes in revenues generated from public lands over the past 15 years, as a result of changes in management on public lands in your State or county?
6. What actions has your State or county taken to mitigate any impacts associated with declining economic conditions, or revenue-sharing payments?
7. What effects, both positive and negative, have taken place with education and highway programs that are attributable to the management of public lands within your State or county?
8. What relationship, if any, should exist between federal revenue-sharing programs, and management activities on public lands?
9. What alternatives exist to provide equitable revenue-sharing to States and counties and promote "sustainable forestry"?
10. What has been your experience regarding implementation of Pub L. 106-291, The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act?

Dated: November 9, 2001.

Timothy DeCoster,
Acting Deputy Chief, Programs and Legislation.

[FR Doc. 01-28752 Filed 11-15-01; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Forest Service****Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee****AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee will hold a

meeting on December 5, 2001, at the North Tahoe Conference Center, 8318 North Lake Blvd., Kings Beach, CA. This Committee, established by the Secretary of Agriculture on December 15, 1998, (64 FR 2876) is chartered to provide advice to the Secretary on implementing the terms of the Federal Interagency Partnership on the Lake Tahoe Region and other matters raised by the Secretary.

DATES: The meeting will be held December 5, 2001, beginning at 9 a.m., and ending at 4:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the North Tahoe Conference Center, 8318 North Lake Blvd., Kings Beach, CA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Maribeth Gustafson or Jeannie Stafford, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Forest Service, 870 Emerald Bay Road Suite 1, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150, (530) 573-2642.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The committee will meet jointly with the Lake Tahoe Basin Executives Committees. Items to be covered on the agenda include: a presentation from the Science Advisory Group, overview of the 2001 TRPA threshold review, USFS Restoration Act project list, NEPA discussion, renewal of the LTFAC Charter, and public comment. All Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend. Issues may be brought to the attention of the Committee during the open public comment period at the meeting or by filing written statements with the secretary for the Committee before or after the meeting. Please refer any written comments to the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit at the contact address stated above.

Dated: November 6, 2001.

Bob Rodman,
Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 01-28335 Filed 11-15-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Rural Utilities Service****Rural Telephone Bank; Notice Under the Rural Electrification Act's "Buy American" Provision****AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service and Rural Telephone Bank, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice of the "Buy American" status of certain countries under the Rural Electrification Act.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) published notice in the **Federal Register** for February 18, 1997, at 62 FR 7205 that the Uruguay Round Agreements Act, (108 Stat. 4954, Pub. L. 103-465, December 8, 1994), amended the "Buy American" provision, (7 U.S.C. 903 note) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*) (the "RE Act"). Under the amendment, the United States Trade Representative (USTR) is authorized to determine which countries ("eligible countries") are eligible to have their products receive the same treatment as manufactured and unmanufactured products produced in the United States. This notice lists the current eligible countries for RUS electric and telecommunications programs, respectively. Please refer to the **Federal Register** notice published February 18, 1997, at 62 FR 7205, for additional information on RUS Buy American requirements.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For electric program matters: George Bagnall, Director, Electric Staff Division, RUS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 1569, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-1569. Telephone number (202) 720-1900, fax (202) 720-7491. For telecommunications program matters: Gerald Nugent, Director, Telecommunications Standards Division, RUS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 1598, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-1598. Telephone number (202) 720-8663, fax (202) 720-4099.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For telecommunications program borrowers: Eligible countries are Canada, Israel, and Mexico.

For electric program borrowers: Eligible countries are Aruba, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, China, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

For electric and telecommunications borrowers: Eligibility of contracts with certain countries may be limited by contract amount or other restrictions. Contact RUS for additional information.

The USTR may at any time declare one or more additional countries to be "eligible countries" for either electric or telecommunications borrowers. The Chair of Technical Standards Committee "A" (Electric) will be the point of contact for RUS with respect to USTR determinations of eligible countries.

Each RUS borrower is responsible for assuring that its procurement complies with the requirements of the RE Act "Buy American" provision.

Dated: November 8, 2001.

Hilda Gay Legg,

Administrator, Rural Utilities Service and Governor, Rural Telephone Bank.

[FR Doc. 01-28748 Filed 11-15-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List Addition

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Addition to the Procurement List.

SUMMARY: This action adds to the Procurement List a commodity to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 17, 2001.

ADDRESS: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Jefferson Plaza 2, Suite 10800, 1421 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3259.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sheryl D. Kennerly (703) 603-7740.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 9, 2001, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled published notices (66 F.R. 50397) of proposed addition to the Procurement List.

After consideration of the material presented to it concerning capability of qualified nonprofit agencies to provide the commodity and impact of the addition on the current or most recent contractors, the Committee has determined that the commodity listed below is suitable for procurement by the Federal Government under 41 U.S.C. 46-48c and 41 CFR 51-2.4. I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. The action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities other than the small organizations that will furnish the commodity to the Government.

2. The action will not have a severe economic impact on current contractors for the commodity.

3. The action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the commodity to the Government.

4. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 46-48c) in connection with the commodity proposed for addition to the Procurement List.

Accordingly, the following commodity is added to the Procurement List:

Commodity

Cap, Utility, USMC
8405-00-NSH-1001
8405-00-NSH-1002
8405-00-NSH-1003
8405-00-NSH-1004
8405-00-NSH-1005
8405-00-NSH-1006
8405-00-NSH-1007
8405-00-NSH-1008
8405-00-NSH-1009
8405-00-NSH-1010
8405-00-NSH-1011
8405-00-NSH-1012
8405-01-485-4313
8405-01-485-4314
8405-01-485-4315
8405-01-485-4316
8405-01-485-4317
8405-01-485-4318
8405-01-485-4299
8405-01-485-4304
8405-01-485-4305
8405-01-485-4307
8405-01-485-4308
8405-01-485-4309

This action does not affect current contracts awarded prior to the effective date of this addition or options that may be exercised under those contracts.

Sheryl D. Kennerly,

Director, Information Management.

[FR Doc. 01-28749 Filed 11-15-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6353-01-P

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List Proposed Addition Corrections

In the document appearing on page 51006, FR Doc. 01-25043, in the issue of October 5, 2001, in the first column the Committee published a notice of addition to the Procurement List of, among other things, EcoLab Water Soluble Cleaners/Detergents, National Stock Number (NSN) 7930-01-380-6404. This notice is amended to correct the NSN to 7930-01-380-8404.

In the document appearing on page 55635, FR Doc. 01-27570, in the issue of November 2, 2001, in the second column the Committee published a

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 62, No. 32

Tuesday, February 18, 1997

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Notice of Intent To Extend and Revise a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the Rural Business-Cooperative Service's (RBS) intention to request an extension for and revision to a currently approved information collection, the annual survey of farmer cooperatives, as authorized in the Cooperative Marketing Act of 1926.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before April 21, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charles A. Kraenzle, Director, Statistics and Technical Services Staff, RBS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 3256, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20250-3256, Telephone (202) 720-3189.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Annual Survey of Farmer Cooperatives.

OMB Number: 0570-0007.

Expiration Date of Approval: September 30, 1997.

Type of Request: Intent to extend and revise a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The primary objective of Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) is to promote understanding, use and development of the cooperative form of business as a viable option for enhancing the income of agricultural producers and other rural residents.

Cooperative Services' (CS) direct role is providing knowledge to improve the effectiveness and performance of farmer cooperative businesses through technical assistance, research, information, and education. The annual survey of farmer cooperatives collects basic statistics on cooperative business volume, net income, members, financial status, employees, and other selected information to support CS' objective and role. Cooperative statistics are published in various reports and used by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, cooperative leaders, educators, and others in planning and promoting the cooperative form of business.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 29 minutes per response.

Respondents: Farmer cooperatives.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 3,082.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,487 Hours.

Copies of this information collection and repeated instructions can be obtained from Sam Spencer, Regulations and Paperwork Management Division, at (202) 720-9588.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) 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; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to 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 forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: Sam Spencer, Regulations and Paperwork Management Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0743, Washington, DC 20250-0743. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All

comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: February 5, 1997.

Dayton J. Watkins,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 97-3846 Filed 2-14-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-U

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY: Rural Telephone Bank, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of cancellation of Board meeting.

SUMMARY: At the December 11, 1996, regular meeting of the Rural Telephone Bank (Bank) Board of Directors, the Board established February 19 and 20, 1997, as the dates for its next staff briefing and regular Board meeting, respectively. The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that the February 19 and 20 meetings have been rescheduled. The Bank will publish notice of the rescheduled meeting dates in the Federal Register, and the Bank will send the stockholders written notification of these dates.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Peters, Assistant Governor, Rural Telephone Bank, telephone (202) 720-9554.

Dated: February 10, 1997.

Wally Beyer,

Governor, Rural Telephone Bank.

[FR Doc. 97-3989 Filed 2-12-97; 4:25 pm]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-M

Rural Utilities Service

Rural Telephone Bank

Amendment to the Rural Electrification Act's "Buy American" Provision

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service and Rural Telephone Bank, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Amendment to the Rural Electrification Act's "Buy American" Provision.

SUMMARY: The Uruguay Round Agreements Act, (108 Stat. 4954, Public Law 103-465, December 8, 1994), amends the "Buy American" provision, (7 U.S.C. 903 note) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*) (the "RE Act"). In the provision, as amended by the Uruguay Round Agreements Act, the

words "Mexico, or Canada" are replaced with "or in any eligible country". The United States Trade Representative (USTR) determines what countries are "eligible". As amended, the provision directs the Secretary of Agriculture, for the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), (previously the Rural Electrification Administration) to require that, to the extent practicable and the cost not unreasonable, a borrower use funds lent under the RE Act only for such unmanufactured articles, materials, and supplies, as have been mined or produced in the United States or eligible country and only such manufactured articles, materials, and supplies as have been manufactured in the United States or an eligible country substantially all from articles, materials or supplies mined, produced, or manufactured, as the case may be, in the United States or an eligible country.

This action is intended to provide borrowers receiving loans made by the Rural Telephone Bank (RTB) or loans made or guaranteed by RUS, as well as material and equipment manufacturers and the public, with information for compliance with the amended RE Act "Buy American" provision.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For electric program matters: George Bagnall, Director, Electric Staff Division, RUS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 1569, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-1569. Telephone number (202) 720-1900, fax (202) 720-7491.

For telecommunications program matters: Orren E. Cameron, III, Director, Telecommunications Standards Division, RUS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 1598, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-1598. Telephone number (202) 720-8663, fax (202) 720-4099.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 342(g) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act, amended the RE Act "Buy American" provision by replacing the words "Mexico, or Canada" with "or in any eligible country" and by authorizing the United States Trade Representative (USTR) to determine what countries are eligible. The "Buy American" provision now reads:

"In making loans pursuant to * * * the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 * * * the Secretary of Agriculture shall require that, to the extent practicable and the cost of which is not unreasonable, the borrower agree to use in connection with the expenditure of such funds only such unmanufactured articles, materials and supplies, as have been mined or produced in the United States or in any eligible country, and

only such manufactured articles, materials, and supplies as have been manufactured in the United States or in any eligible country, substantially all from articles, materials, or supplies mined, produced, or manufactured, as the case may be, in the United States or in any eligible country. For purposes of this section, an 'eligible country' is any country that applies with respect to the United States an agreement ensuring reciprocal access for United States products and services and United States suppliers to the markets of that country, as determined by the United States Trade Representative."

The RUS "Buy American" provision applies to any loan made by the RTB or made or guaranteed by the RUS. Whether a particular product is domestic or non-domestic for purposes of the RE Act "Buy American" provision depends upon such factors as the country of origin of the product and its component parts and whether the product is purchased by an electric borrower or a telecommunications borrower.

The eligibility status of Canada and Mexico has not changed. Products produced in Canada or Mexico substantially consisting of components produced in Canada, Mexico, or the United States and purchased with RTB or RUS electric or telephone loan funds are treated as United States domestic products.

At this time the USTR has determined that only Canada and Mexico are eligible countries for purchases made by telecommunications borrowers. Therefore, products produced in countries other than the United States, Canada, or Mexico and purchased by RUS telecommunications borrowers are not treated as domestic products for purposes of the RE Act "Buy American" provision. The amendment makes no change in the treatment of these purchases unless and until the USTR determines additional "eligible countries" for telecommunications borrowers.

At this time, the USTR has determined that the following countries have agreements ensuring reciprocal access regarding products used by electric borrowers, and are therefore "eligible countries" for purchases made by electric borrowers:

Austria
Belgium
Denmark
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Ireland

Israel
Italy
Japan
Korea
Luxembourg
The Netherlands
Norway
Portugal
Singapore
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom

Products from an eligible country consisting substantially of components produced in the United States or any eligible country and purchased by RUS electric borrowers with RUS loan funds will be considered to be domestic products for purposes of the RE Act "Buy American" provision.

The USTR may at any time declare one or more additional countries to be "eligible countries" for either electric or telecommunications borrowers. The Chair of Technical Standards Committee "A" (Electric) will be the point of contact for RUS with respect to USTR determinations of eligible countries. Each RUS borrower is responsible for assuring that its procurement complies with the requirements of the RE Act "Buy American" provision.

RUS is making technical revisions to its existing forms of loan contracts and loan contract amendments to conform them to the RE Act "Buy American" provision as amended. In addition, RUS will make similar technical revisions to its standard forms of contracts providing for the purchase of materials and equipment and for "furnish and install" type construction. Until these forms are revised, the borrower should make the appropriate changes in its contract forms.

Dated: February 5, 1997.

Wally Beyer,

Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, and Governor, Rural Telephone Bank.

[FR Doc. 97-3794 Filed 2-14-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A-427-811]

Certain Stainless Steel Wire Rods From France: Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

[Federal Register: January 6, 1994]

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Electrification Administration
Rural Telephone Bank

Amendment to the Rural Electrification Act's "Buy American"
Provision

AGENCY: Rural Electrification Administration and Rural Telephone Bank,
USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Amendment to the Rural Electrification Act's "Buy
American" Provision.

SUMMARY: The recently passed North America Free Trade Agreement
Implementation Act has amended the Rural Electrification Act's "Buy
American" provision. Previously, the provision required borrowers,
when using loan funds, to purchase only equipment that was manufactured
in the United States and that was made mostly from materials and
supplies originating in the United States. The amended provision
permits borrowers to also purchase equipment, under similar conditions,
from Canadian or Mexican manufacturers.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For telephone program matters: George
Bagnall, Chief, Engineering Standards Branch, Telecommunications
Standards Division, Rural Electrification Administration, Room 2846,
South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington DC 20250-
1500, telephone number (202) 720-0698.

For electric program matters: Harvey L. Bowles, Chairman, Technical
Standards Committee "A" (Electric), Electric Staff Division, Rural
Electrification Administration, Room 1246, South Building, U.S.
Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250-1500, telephone number
(202) 720-0980.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The North American Free Trade Agreement
Implementation Act, Public Law 103-182, (NAFTA Implementation Act) was
signed into law on December 8, 1993. Section 381 (d) of Subtitle G of
Title III of the NAFTA Implementation Act amends the REA "Buy

American" provision established by Section 401 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1938, 52 Stat. 313, 318, 7 U.S.C. 901 et. seq., (1938 RE Act). The REA "Buy American" provision was revised by adding ", Mexico, or Canada" after every reference therein to the "United States."

Prior to its amendment by the NAFTA Implementation Act, the 1938 RE Act generally required borrowers, when using loan funds, to purchase equipment that was manufactured in the United States that was made mostly from materials and supplies originating in the United States. The NAFTA Implementation Act amendment of the 1938 RE Act takes effect on January 1, 1994. Generally speaking, after December 31, 1993, borrowers using funds from loans which have been made or guaranteed by REA or the Rural Telephone Bank will be able to satisfy REA's "Buy American" provision by purchasing equipment that has been manufactured in North America and made mostly of materials and supplies originating in North America, i.e., in the United States, Mexico, or Canada.

The REA "Buy American" provision as revised by the NAFTA Implementation Act reads as follows:

In making loans pursuant to this title and pursuant to the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, the Administrator of Rural Electrification Administration shall require that, to the extent practicable and the cost of which is not unreasonable, the borrower agree to use in connection with the expenditure of such funds only such unmanufactured articles, materials, and supplies, as have been mined or produced in the United States, Mexico, or Canada, and only such manufactured articles, materials, and supplies as have been manufactured in the United States, Mexico, or Canada substantially all from articles, materials or supplies, mined, produced, or manufactured, as the case may be, in the United States, Mexico, or Canada.

The amended provision applies to all procurements within REA's jurisdiction that commence after December 31, 1993, which involve any REA, Rural Telephone Bank or guaranteed loan funds. REA is notifying borrowers, as well as Canadian and Mexican manufacturers with current REA technically-accepted products, of this change in the REA "Buy American" provision.

REA is also making technical revisions to its existing forms of loan contracts and loan contract amendments to conform them to the 1938 RE Act as amended by NAFTA. REA will begin using these revised forms for all transactions entered into after December 31, 1993. In addition, REA is making similar technical revisions to its recommended forms of contracts providing for the purchase of materials and supplies. These

changes will have no effect on any contract which is fully in effect prior to January 1, 1994.

Michael V. Dunn,
Acting Under Secretary, Small Community and Rural Development.
[FR Doc 94-233 Filed 1-5-94; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410-15-F