

- (18) Split air waybill indicator (optional)
- (19) Hazmat indicator (Yes/No)
- (20) UN Number (conditional) (If the hazmat indicator is yes, the four-digit UN (United Nations) Number assigned to the hazardous material must be provided.)
- (21) In-bond number (optional)
- (22) Mode of transportation (containerized air cargo or noncontainerized air cargo) (optional).

For further details on the background and procedures and modifications regarding the test, please refer to the July 10, 2015 notice and August 14, 2017 extension and modification.

II. Extension of the ACE Export Manifest for Air Cargo Test Period

CBP will renew the test for another two years to continue further evaluation of the ACE Export Manifest for Air Cargo Test to determine whether electronic submission of the manifest will allow for improvements in capabilities at the departure level. The extended test will now run for two additional years from the date of publication.

III. Applicability of Initial Test Notice

All provisions found in the July 2015 notice, and modifications in the August 2017 extension, remain applicable, subject to the further extension of the time period provided herein.

IV. Paperwork Reduction Act

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–13, 44 U.S.C. 3507), an agency may not conduct, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid control number assigned by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The collections of information in this NCAP test have been approved by OMB in accordance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act and assigned OMB control number 1651–0001.

Diane J. Sabatino,

Acting Executive Assistant Commissioner, Office of Field Operations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

[FR Doc. 2024–12166 Filed 6–3–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Notice of Issuance of Final Determination Concerning Certain Upholstered Wood Chairs

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 certain upholstered wood chairs. Based upon the facts presented, CBP has concluded that the components imported into the United States undergo a substantial transformation when made into the upholstered wood chairs.

DATES: The final determination was issued on May 29, 2024. 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 no later than July 5, 2024.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that on May 29, 2024, CBP issued a final determination concerning the country of origin of certain upholstered wood chairs for purposes of title III of the Trade Agreements Act of 1979. This final determination, HQ H338482, was issued at the request of J Squared Inc., d/b/a University Loft Company, 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 concluded that, based upon the facts presented, the imported components are substantially transformed in the United States when made into the subject upholstered wood chairs.

Section 177.29, CBP Regulations (19 CFR 177.29), provides that a notice of final determination 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**.

Alice A. Kipel,
Executive Director, Regulations and Rulings, Office of Trade.

HQ H338482

May 29, 2024

OT:RR:CTF:VS H338482 EE

Category: Origin

Matthew Johnson

J Squared Inc., d/b/a University Loft Company

2588 Jannetides Blvd.
Greenfield, IN 46140

Re: U.S. Government Procurement; Title III, Trade Agreements Act of 1979 (19 U.S.C. 2511); Subpart B, Part 177, CBP Regulations; Country of Origin of Upholstered Wood Chairs

Dear Mr. Johnson:

This is in response to your request, dated March 28, 2024, for a final determination concerning the country of origin of certain upholstered wood chairs pursuant to Title III of the Trade Agreements Act of 1979 (“TAA”), as amended (19 U.S.C. 2511 *et seq.*), and subpart B of Part 177, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (“CBP”) Regulations (19 CFR 177.21, *et seq.*). Your request, submitted as an electronic ruling request, was forwarded to this office from the National Commodity Specialist Division for response. J Squared Inc., d/b/a University Loft Company (“ULC”), is a party-at-interest within the meaning of 19 CFR 177.22(d)(1) and 177.23(a) and is therefore entitled to request this final determination.

Facts

You state that two upholstered wood chairs, item nos. G32PLY2 and G32PLY1, are manufactured at your facility in Greenfield, IN, utilizing components from various sources. Item no. G32PLY1 is a solid wood and high-pressure laminate upholstered chair. Its dimensions are: 19⁵/₁₆” wide x 23¹/₁₆” deep x 33” high, with a 16” seat height. It features a waterfall-style, legged design and the legs and seat rails are constructed of curved bentwood. It is made of solid hardwood and high-pressure laminate.

Item no. G32PLY2 is a solid wood upholstered chair. Its dimensions are: 19⁵/₁₆” wide x 22¹/₁₆” deep x 33” high with a 16” seat height. It features a waterfall-style, 2-position design and the legs and seat rails are constructed of curved bentwood.

You state that for both chairs, the construction allows for replacement of individual components. The production of the upholstered wood chairs involves the following steps:

Step #1

Fabric from the United States is cut to size for the seats with a cutting machine. Plastic welt cord from the United States is cut to size and wrapped around the inner upholstered chair back. The cut fabric for the back and the welt cord are sewn together with a sewing machine.

Step #2

Sheets of dust covers from the United States are cut to the specific size of the bottom seat with the cutting machine.

Step #3

Precut foam from the United States for the seats and backs are trimmed around the edges of the seat for even application of the fabric.

For the seats, the foam is combined with the wooden seat component, the cut seat fabric, and the dust cover. The fabric and dust cover are stapled by hand over the foam and onto the wooden seat.

For the inner/outer backs, the foam is combined with the wooden inner seat back, the back cut fabric, and the plastic welt cord that have already been sewn together. The fabric/welt cord is stapled by hand over the foam and onto the inner seat back. A finished non-upholstered outer seat back is then attached.

Step #4

Seven wooden components of the base of the chairs, consisting of the left seat rail, right seat rail, left leg, right leg, front crossbar, back crossbar, and bottom crossbar, are combined with hardware that is also purchased in the same kit as the wooden chair components. These include 60mm bolts with Loctite, 40mm bolts with Loctite, 35mm bolts with Loctite, and 10mm x 40mm large wooden dowels. The kit is from China.

Five wooden components (minus the seat rails) are attached using wood glue and dowels. A total of four dowels are used per chair. Next, the chair base is put on a chair base clamp to make sure the base of the chair is square, and all dowels are properly inserted.

Once it is confirmed that the base is straight, the remaining two wood components are added. The left and right seat rails are attached to the base using the 60mm bolts with Loctite. The upholstered seats are attached to the base using four 40mm bolts with Loctite. The upholstered inner backs with a finished outer back are attached to the base using four 35mm bolts with Loctite.

Step #5

The chairs are packaged for shipment using Microfilm rolls to protect seat and back surfaces from touching during shipment. Chairs are then boxed or palletized.

You provided an outline of the manufacturing process of the two chairs and the costed bill of materials.

Issue

Whether the imported components are substantially transformed when assembled into the upholstered wood chairs in the United States.

Law and Analysis

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, pursuant to subpart B of Part 177, 19 CFR 177.21–177.31, which implements Title III of the TAA, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2511–2518).

CBP’s authority to issue advisory rulings and final determinations is set forth in 19 U.S.C. 2515(b)(1), which states:

For the purposes of this subchapter, the Secretary of the Treasury shall provide for the prompt issuance of advisory rulings and final determinations on whether, under section 2518(4)(B) of this title, *an article is or would be a product of a foreign country or instrumentality designated pursuant to section 2511(b) of this title.*

Emphasis added.

The Secretary of the Treasury’s authority mentioned above, along with other customs revenue functions, are delegated to CBP in the Appendix to 19 CFR part 0—Treasury Department Order No. 100–16, 68 FR 28,322 (May 23, 2003).

The rule of origin set forth under 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 Regulation (“FAR”). See 19 CFR 177.21. In this regard, CBP recognizes that the FAR restricts 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 FAR, 48 CFR 25.003, defines “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.

In order to determine whether a substantial transformation occurs, 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, CBP considers factors such as the resources expended on product design and development, the extent and nature of post-assembly inspection and testing procedures, and worker skill required during the actual manufacturing process when determining whether a substantial transformation has occurred. No one factor is determinative.

In *Carlson Furniture Indus. v. United States*, 65 Cust. Ct. 474, Cust. Dec. 4126 (1970), which involved wooden chair parts, the court held that the assembly operations after importation were substantial in nature and more than a simple assembly of parts. The importer assembled, fitted, and glued the wooden parts together, inserted steel pins into the key joints, cut the legs to length and leveled them, and in some instances, upholstered the chairs and fitted the legs with glides and casters. The assembly operations resulted in the creation of a new article of commerce.

In Headquarters Ruling Letter (“HQ”) H083693, dated March 23, 2010, CBP held that a wood chest assembled in the United States was a product of the United States for purposes of U.S. Government procurement. The wood chest was assembled from over 20 U.S. and foreign components in a 20-step process which took approximately 41 minutes. CBP held that the components that were used to manufacture the wood chest, when combined with a U.S.-origin laminate top, were substantially transformed as a result of the assembly operations performed in the United States.

In the instant case, as previously noted, the components in the kit from China consist of the left seat rail, right seat rail, left leg, right leg, front crossbar, back crossbar, bottom crossbar, 60mm bolts with Loctite, 40mm bolts with Loctite, 35mm bolts with Loctite, and 10mm x 40mm large wooden dowels. The U.S.-origin fabric, dust covers, and welt cord are cut to size and combined with the U.S.-origin foam to form the seat and the seat back. Based on the information presented, when the foreign components are integrated with the U.S. components, they lose their individual identities and become an integral part of a new article, the upholstered wood chair, possessing a new name, character and use. We, therefore, find that the last substantial transformation occurs in the United States. As to whether the upholstered wood chair produced in the United States qualifies as a “U.S.-made end product,” you may wish to consult with the relevant government procuring agency and review *Acetris Health, LLC v. United States*, 949 F.3d 719 (Fed. Cir. 2020).

Holding

Based on the information outlined above, we determine that the components imported into the United States undergo a substantial transformation when made into the subject upholstered wood chairs.

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 U.S. Court of International Trade.

Sincerely,
 Alice A. Kipel,
*Executive Director, Regulations and Rulings,
 Office of Trade.*

[FR Doc. 2024-12213 Filed 6-3-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9111-14-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-7090-N-07]

60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: HUD Research, Evaluation, and Demonstration Cooperative Agreements; OMB Control No.: 2528-0299

AGENCY: Office of Policy Development and Research, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: HUD is seeking approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for the information collection described below. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, HUD is requesting comment from all interested parties on the proposed collection of information. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment.

DATES: *Comments Due Date:* August 5, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection can be submitted within 60 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting, “Currently under 60-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function. Interested persons are also invited to submit comments regarding this proposal by name and/or OMB Control Number and can be sent to: Anna Guido, Reports Management Officer, REE, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW, Room 8210, Washington, DC 20410-5000 or email at PaperworkReductionActOffice@hud.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Anna Guido, Reports Management Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW, Washington, DC 20410; email; Anna.P.Guido@hud.gov; telephone (202) 402-5535 (this is not a toll-free number). HUD welcomes and is

prepared to receive calls from individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, as well as individuals with speech or communication disabilities. To learn more about how to make an accessible telephone call, please visit <https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/telecommunications-relay-service-trs>.

Copies of available documents submitted to OMB may be obtained from Ms. Guido.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice informs the public that HUD is seeking approval from OMB for the information collection described in Section A.

A. Overview of Information Collection

Title of Information Collection: HUD Research, Evaluation, and Demonstration Cooperative Agreements.

OMB Approval Number: 2528-0299.

Type of Request: Revision of currently approved collection.

Form Number: N/A.

Description of the need for the information and proposed use: PD&R intends to establish cooperative agreements with qualified for-profit and nonprofit research organizations and universities to conduct research, demonstrations, and data analysis. This information collection includes the post-award materials that cooperative agreement recipients will be required to submit to PD&R over the course of the period of performance of their award. PD&R will use these deliverables to monitor the progress of the research being carried out under the cooperative agreement and to monitor the use of the funding and authorize payments to the awardee.

Respondent: For-profit and nonprofit organizations that are selected to receive an award under HUD’s Research, Evaluation, and Demonstration Cooperative Agreements.

Estimated Number of Respondents: HUD anticipates up to 33 organizations may be selected to receive a cooperative agreement award over the three years covered by this ICR. Recipients of the cooperative agreements will be the sole members of the affected public for the reporting requirement.

TABLE 1—ESTIMATED HOUR AND COST BURDEN OF INFORMATION COLLECTION

Information collection	Number of respondents	Frequency of response	Responses per annum	Burden hour per response	Annual burden hours	Hourly cost per response	Cost
Quality Control Plan	25	0.33	8.25	20	165	\$49.14	\$8,108.10
Management and Work Plan	25	0.33	8.25	40	330	49.14	16,216.20
Sustainability Plan	7	0.33	2.31	40	92.4	49.14	4,540.53
Research Design	29	0.33	9.57	160	1531.2	49.14	75,243.16