

individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Special Emphasis Panel; Population Sciences Study Section/ Member Conflict.

Date: November 22, 2024.

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, 6710 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Jagpreet Singh Nanda, Ph.D., Scientific Review Branch, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health, 6710B Rockledge Drive, Rm. 2125D, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 451-4454, jagpreet.nanda@nih.gov.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.864, Population Research; 93.865, Research for Mothers and Children; 93.929, Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research; 93.209, Contraception and Infertility Loan Repayment Program, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: October 8, 2024.

Lauren A. Fleck,

Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 2024-23686 Filed 10-11-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Notice of Issuance of Final Determination Concerning Surgical Towels

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 surgical towels. Based upon the facts presented, CBP has concluded in the final determination that the country of origin of the surgical towels in question is Bangladesh for purposes of U.S. Government procurement.

DATES: The final determination was issued on October 7, 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 November 14, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Marie Durané, Food, Textiles and Marking Branch, Regulations and Rulings, Office of Trade, at marie.durane@cbp.dhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that on October 7, 2024, CBP issued a final determination concerning the country of origin of certain surgical towels for purposes of Title III of the Trade Agreements Act of 1979. This final determination, HQ H339826, was issued at the request of Global Resources International, 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 country of origin of the surgical towels is Bangladesh 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**.

Alice A. Kipel,

Executive Director, Regulations and Rulings, Office of Trade.

HQ H339826

October 7, 2024

OT:RR:CTF:FTM H339826 MJD

CATEGORY: Origin

Ms. Lisa Murrin, LCB
Senior Consultant, U.S. Trade Advisory Services
Expeditors Tradewin, LLC
795 Jubilee Drive
Peabody, MA 01960

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 Surgical Towels

Dear Ms. Murrin:

This is in response to your request, dated April 12, 2024, on behalf of your client, Global Resources International (“GRI”), for a final determination concerning the country of origin of surgical towels, 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. GRI 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

The subject merchandise consists of blue surgical towels made from 100 percent cotton huckaback weave fabric. The imported towels, measuring either 17 x 24 or 17 x 27 inches, may or may not be sterilized, but are autoclaved. The towels are used during surgery for the absorption of fluids. The cotton fabric used to make the towels is from Bangladesh. In Bangladesh, the fabric is woven and dyed blue. Then the fabric is shipped to Vietnam in rolls, where it is cut to size, sewn, autoclaved, packaged, and shipped to the United States. The surgical towels are classified under subheading 6307.90.89, Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (“HTSUS”).

Issue

What is the country of origin of the surgical towels for purposes of U.S. Government procurement?

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 28322 (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 "designated country end product" as:

a 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.

Section 25.003 defines "Least developed country end product" as an article that:

(1) Is wholly the growth, product, or manufacture of a least developed 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 least developed 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.

As previously noted, the fabric from Bangladesh is cut to size, sewn, autoclaved, and packaged in Vietnam. Bangladesh is a TAA-designated country, and Vietnam is not.

The information submitted indicates that the surgical towels are made of 100% cotton. GRI also indicates that the goods are classified in subheading 6307.90.89, HTSUS, as a textile product. The rules of origin for textile and apparel products for purposes of the customs laws and the administration of quantitative restrictions are governed by 19 U.S.C. 3592, unless otherwise provided for by statute. These provisions are implemented in the CBP Regulations at 19 CFR 102.21. Section 3592 of title 19 has been described as Congress's expression of substantial transformation as it relates to textile and apparel products. Therefore, the country of origin of the surgical towels for Government procurement purposes is determined by sequential application of the general rules set forth in paragraphs (c)(1) through (c)(5) of 19 CFR 102.21.

Paragraph (c)(1) states: "The country of origin of a textile or apparel product is the single country, territory, or insular possession in which the good was wholly obtained or produced." Since the surgical towels are produced by processing in both Bangladesh and Vietnam, they are not wholly obtained or produced in a single country, territory or insular possession. Therefore paragraph (c)(1) of Section 102.21 is inapplicable.

Paragraph (c)(2) states: "Where the country of origin of a textile or apparel product cannot be determined under paragraph (c)(1) of this section, the country of origin of the good is the single country, territory, or insular possession in which each of the

foreign materials incorporated in that good underwent an applicable change in tariff classification, and/or met any other requirement specified for the good in paragraph (e) of this section."

Paragraph (e)(1) provides that "The following rules will apply for purposes of determining the country of origin of a textile or apparel product under paragraph (c)(2) of this section." The applicable rule, that corresponds to subheading 6307.90.89, HTSUS, states:

6307.90 The country of origin of a good classifiable under subheading 6307.90 is the country, territory, or insular possession in which the fabric comprising the good was formed by a fabric-making process.

In the instant case, the 100% cotton fabric that is woven and dyed blue in Bangladesh is imported into Vietnam where it is cut to size, sewn, and autoclaved to make surgical towels. Therefore, the country of origin of the surgical towels is Bangladesh, where the 100% cotton fabric that comprises the surgical towel was formed by a fabric-making process. As the surgical towels meet the requirements for goods classified in subheading 6307.90, HTSUS, pursuant to 19 CFR 102.21(c)(2), the country of origin of the surgical towels is Bangladesh.

Based on the analysis above, we find that the country of origin of the subject surgical towels is Bangladesh and, therefore, the surgical towels would be the product of a foreign country or instrumentality designated pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 2511(b)(1).

Holding

Based on the facts and analysis set forth above, the country of origin of the instant surgical towels will be Bangladesh.

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. 2024-23652 Filed 10-11-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9111-14-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

[OMB Control Number 1651-0140]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Extension; Collection of Advance Information From Certain Undocumented Individuals on the Land Border

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

ACTION: 60-Day notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) 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 of 1995 (PRA). The information collection is published in the **Federal Register** to obtain comments from the public and affected agencies.

DATES: Comments are encouraged and must be submitted (no later than December 16, 2024) to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and/or suggestions regarding the item(s) contained in this notice must include the OMB Control Number 1651-0140 in the subject line and the agency name. Please submit written comments and/or suggestions in English. Please use the following method to submit comments:
Email. Submit comments to: *CBP_PRA@cbp.dhs.gov*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional PRA information should be directed to Seth Renkema, Chief, Economic Impact Analysis Branch, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Trade, Regulations and Rulings, 90 K Street NE, 10th Floor, Washington, DC 20229-1177, Telephone number 202-325-0056 or via email *CBP_PRA@cbp.dhs.gov*. Please note that the contact information provided here is solely for questions regarding this notice. Individuals seeking information about other CBP programs should contact the CBP National Customer Service Center at 877-227-5511, (TTY) 1-800-877-8339, or CBP website at <https://www.cbp.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: CBP invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on the proposed and/or continuing information collections pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*). This process is conducted in