

**Bidder Certification Regarding the Use of
Iron, Steel, Manufactured Products, and Construction Materials produced in the United States
(Build America, Buy America Act)**

I _____, do hereby certify that:

Name

1. I am _____ (title) of the _____ (company, partnership, etc.) and have authority to execute this certification on behalf of the firm.
2. I am aware that all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used for this project must be produced in the United States per the federal Build America, Buy America Act (BABA) signed by President Biden on November 15, 2021. Pub. L No. 117-58, §§ 70901-52.
3. I understand the term “iron and steel products” refers to the following products made primarily of iron or steel: lined or unlined pipes and fittings manhole covers and other municipal castings, hydrants, tanks, flanges, pipe clamps and restraints, valves, structural steel, reinforced precast concrete, and construction materials.
4. I understand that all manufactured products used in the project must be produced in the United States. This means the manufactured product was manufactured in the United States, and the cost of the components of the manufactured product that are mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States is greater than 55 percent of the total cost of all components of the manufactured product.
5. I acknowledge that all construction materials for this project must be manufactured in the United States. This means all manufacturing processes for the construction materials occurred in the United States.
6. I am aware that this requirement applies to all portions of the project that are subcontracted.

Signature _____

Date _____

Corporate Seal (where appropriate)

Requirements Specific to Buy America, Build America Act (BABA)

On November 15, 2021, President Biden signed into law the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (“IIJA”), Pub. L. No. 117-58, which includes the Build America, Buy America Act (“BABA”). The purpose of BABA is to ensure that federally funded infrastructure projects only utilize iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials produced in the United States. The requirement to use products produced in the United States applies to all projects for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of publicly owned treatment works (POTW) or public water systems. Since Illinois’ Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) utilize federal funds, loan recipients must use iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials that are produced in the United States. Guidance is available on USEPA’s website: <https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/build-america-buy-america-baba>. Waivers from the requirements are available under certain circumstances. BABA requires the following:

1. All iron and steel used in the project are produced in the United States. This means all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, occurred in the United States.
2. All manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States. This means the manufactured product was manufactured in the United States, and the cost of the components of the manufactured product that are mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States is greater than 55 percent of the total cost of all components of the manufactured product, unless another standard for determining the minimum amount of domestic content of the manufactured product has been established under applicable law or regulation.
3. All construction materials are manufactured in the United States. This means that all manufacturing processes for the construction material occurred in the United States.

BABA only applies to items that are consumed in, incorporated into, or affixed to an infrastructure project. It does not apply to tools, equipment, and supplies, such as temporary scaffolding, brought to the construction site and removed at project completion. BABA does not apply to equipment and furnishings, such as movable chairs, desks, and portable computer equipment, that are used at or within the finished infrastructure project but are not an integral part of or permanently affixed to the structure.

BABA requirements apply to an entire infrastructure project, even if it is funded by both Federal and non-Federal funds under one or more awards.

Construction Materials includes an article, material, or supply that consists primarily of:

- non-ferrous metals;
- plastic and polymer-based products including polyvinylchloride, composite building materials, and polymers used in fiber optic cables;
- glass including optic glass;
- lumber; or
- drywall.

Construction Materials does NOT include items made primarily of iron or steel; manufactured products; cement and cementitious materials; aggregates such as stone, sand, or gravel; or aggregate binding agents or additives.

Requirements Specific to Iron and Steel

The existing American Iron and Steel (AIS) Requirements will continue as part of BABA. An iron or steel product is one of the items listed below and is made primarily of iron or steel that is permanently incorporated into the public water system or treatment works.

- Pipes (lined or unlined) and pipe fittings
- Pipe clamps and restraints
- Valves
- Structural steel
- Manhole Covers and other municipal castings such as valves boxes, drainage grates, bollards, etc.
- Construction materials such as trusses, wire, grating, wire, ductwork, fence tubing, wall panels, etc.
- Hydrants
- Flanges
- Tanks
- Reinforced precast concrete

For one of the listed iron or steel products to be considered subject to the BABA requirements, it must be made of greater than 50% iron or steel, measured by the material costs. “Steel” means an alloy that includes at least 50 percent iron, between .02 and 2 percent carbon, and may include other elements. Metallic elements such as chromium, nickel, molybdenum, manganese, and silicon may be added during the melting of steel for the purpose of enhancing properties such as corrosion resistance, hardness, or strength. The definition of steel covers carbon steel, alloy steel, stainless steel, tool steel and other specialty steels. AIS Guidance is available at: <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/grants-loans/state-revolving-fund/guidance/american-iron-and-steel-requirements.html>.

Recordkeeping and Documenting the Country of Origin for Iron, Steel, Manufactured Products, & Construction Materials used in Loan Funded Projects

Loan recipients with assistance from their general contractor must be able to verify that products used in their projects comply with the BABA requirements. USEPA recommends loan recipients use a “Step Certification” process to ensure that producers adhere to the BABA requirements. Step certification is a process under which each handler (supplier, fabricator, manufacturer, etc.) of the iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials certifies that their step in the process was domestically performed. Each time a step in the manufacturing process takes place, the manufacturer delivers its work along with a certification of its origin.

A certification can be quite simple if it includes the name of the manufacturer, the location of the manufacturing facility (not company headquarters), a description of the product or item being delivered, and a signature by a manufacturer’s responsible party. Certification could be achieved by other methods such as requiring the final manufacturer, who delivers the products to the worksite, to provide certification that all manufacturing processes occurred in the US. While this type of certification is easier and acceptable, it may not provide the same degree of assurance and additional documentation may be needed.

USEPA auditors recommend keeping records of when and where the products were delivered. Records from the manufacturer should refer to specific items such as pipes, valves, meters. Try to avoid records containing broad statements such as, "All products delivered were USA made".

Regardless of the method, documents regarding the country of origin for all covered items should be collected and maintained by the loan recipients. Having a good paper trail is invaluable during an inspection or audit.

Sample Certification Letter

Below is a sample step certification letter for BABA compliance. The completed letter is provided to the construction contractor or loan applicant by the supplier, fabricator, manufacturer, etc. of covered products. Documentation must be provided on company letterhead.

Company Letterhead

Date

Company Name
Company Address
City, State, Zip

Subject: Build America, Buy America Act Step Certification for Project (Identify Project Here xxx)

I, (company representative), certify that the (melting, bending, coating, galvanizing, cutting, etc.) process for (manufacturing or fabricating) the following products and/or materials shipped or provided for the subject project are in full compliance with the federal Build America, Buy America Act requirements as required in EPA's State Revolving Fund Programs.

Item, Products, and/or Materials:

1. XXX
2. XXX
3. XXX

Such process took place at the following location (City and State must be included):

If any of the above compliance statements change while providing material for this project, we will immediately notify the prime contractor and the engineer.

Signed by Company Representative

Name Clearly Typed