

abstract: Primary: Individuals or households. Form I-590 provides a uniform method for applicants to apply for refugee status and contains the information needed for USCIS to adjudicate such applications.

The revised Form I-590 includes additional questions that have been transferred from Form G-646, *Sworn Statement of Refugee Applying for Admission into the United States*. These questions assist USCIS in determining whether an applicant is inadmissible to the United States.

(5) *An estimate of the total number of respondents and the amount of time estimated for an average respondent to respond:* 100,000 responses at 3 hours and 20 minutes (3.33 hours) per response.

(6) *An estimate of the total public burden (in hours) associated with the collection:* 333,000 annual burden hours.

If you need a copy of the information collection instrument with instructions, or additional information, please visit the Federal eRulemaking Portal site at: <http://www.Regulations.gov>. We may also be contacted at: USCIS, Office of Policy and Strategy, Regulatory Coordination Division, 20 Massachusetts Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20529-2140, Telephone number 202-272-8377.

Dated: September 17, 2013.

Laura Dawkins,

Chief, Regulatory Coordination Division, Office of Policy and Strategy, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security.

[FR Doc. 2013-22975 Filed 9-19-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9111-97-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Notice of Issuance of Final Determination Concerning Nec Microwave Radios

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 NEC iPasolink 250 and 650 microwave radios. Based upon the facts presented, CBP has concluded in the final determination that Japan is the country of origin of the microwave radios for purposes of U.S. Government procurement.

DATES: The final determination was issued on September 13, 2013. 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 on or before October 21, 2013.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Karen S. Greene, Valuation and Special Programs Branch: (202) 325-0041.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that on September 13, 2013, pursuant to subpart B of Part 177, Customs and Border Protection Regulations (19 CFR part 177, subpart B), CBP issued a final determination concerning the country of origin of NEC iPasolink microwave radios, which may be offered to the U.S. Government under an undesignated government procurement contract. This final determination, in HQ H206977, was issued at the request of NEC Corporation of America, 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 microwave radios were substantially transformed in Japan, such that Japan is the country of origin of the microwave radios for purposes of U.S. Government procurement.

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**.

Dated: September 13, 2013.

Sandra L. Bell,

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

Attachment

H206977

September 13, 2013

OT:RR:CTF:VS H206977 KSG

Joseph L. De La Luz
Director, Trade Compliance
NEC Corporation of America
6535 N. State Hwy. 161
Irving, Texas 75039-2402

RE: Government Procurement; Country of Origin of NEC iPASOLINK 250 and 650 microwave radios; substantial transformation

Dear Mr. De La Luz:

This is in response to your letter dated February 27, 2012, and additional submissions dated July 27, 2012, and June 13, 2013, requesting a final determination on behalf of NEC Corporation of America ("NEC"), pursuant to subpart B of part 177 of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection ("CBP") Regulations (19 CFR Part 177). Under these regulations, which implement Title III of the Trade Agreements Act of 1979 ("TAA") as amended (19 U.S.C. 2511 et seq.), 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.

The final determination concerns the country of origin of the NEC iPASOLINK 250 and 650 microwave radios ("microwave radios"). We note that as a U.S. importer, NEC is a party-at-interest within the meaning of 19 CFR 177.22(d)(1) and is entitled to request this final determination. A conference was held on this matter on August 28, 2012.

FACTS:

The iPASOLINK 250 and 650 are hybrid digital microwave radios, used for wireless point-to-point communications. The hybrid nature of the radio enables the simultaneous transmission of both Time Division Multiplexed and Ethernet-based data in their native formats.

The microwave radios are comprised of two major units, the indoor unit ("IDU") and the transmitter-receiver unit chassis ("TRX chassis"). The TRX chassis consists of a transmitter-receiver ("TRX") and a branching unit. The TRX chassis comes in two forms: an indoor TRX or an outdoor unit ("ODU"). The function is the same regardless of the mounting method. The ODU is normally attached directly to or mounted behind a parabolic antenna. The indoor TRX is a rack mountable card file-type shelf housed indoors in an environmentally controlled (air conditioned) shelter or other enclosure and it consists of a TRX, a branching circuit unit, and a chassis or card cage. The IDU, which is common to either type of mounting, is manufactured in India, and consists of a rack mounted shelf or card cage that can house a variety of plug-in units determined by the specific application of the radio. At a minimum, the IDU consists of: a shelf with cooling fans, a main card, a modulator/demodulator (modem), and a power supply. The shelf and fans provide a means of mounting

and connecting the cards that perform the signal processing that occurs inside the radio. The fans supply forced air cooling to ensure the operation meets the specifications over the stated temperature range of the IDU. The modem cards accept data from the main card and map that data into frames that are then applied to the modulator. The modulator then modulates an Intermediate Frequency (IF) based on the sequence of bits in the blocks presented for transmission. The main card contains independent Ethernet and Time Division Multiplexed switch fabrics where source and destination addresses of packets or circuits are analyzed and cross-connects are made. The main card also provides the operation, administrative, and maintenance functions of the radio. Once switching/cross-connecting is complete, the main card prepares the individual Time Division Multiplexed and Ethernet data streams for hand-off to the modem card. The power supply accepts a line voltage.

NEC iPASOLINK 250 and 650 microwave radios are comprised of components from Japan and India. The TRX, the branching circuit, and the modem are manufactured in Japan. The main card, the tributary unit, the power supply unit, the IDU chassis and fans are manufactured in India. The Indian components are assembled with the Japanese-origin modem to manufacture the IDU in India. The software is developed in India and Japan. The software developed by NEC in Japan pertains to the interface between the main card and the modem cards.

All these components are shipped to the U.S. Five components are shipped to the U.S. from India to be assembled into the IDU: the fan filter unit, the fan unit, the power supply unit, the main card, and the chassis. Two major sub-assemblies are shipped to the U.S. from Japan: the modem and the indoor TRX unit or the ODU with the antenna attached.

In the U.S., the components listed above that are imported from India (the fan filter unit, the fan unit, the power supply unit, and the main card) and the modem are inserted into various slots in the chassis. Sub-modules of the modem are assembled. Then, the indoor TRX is stacked on top of the chassis, the IDU is stacked and interconnected with U.S.-origin coaxial cables in the middle of the chassis, and the ODU is placed in the bottom of the chassis. The microwave radios are tested, and the software is customized to fit specific customer applications and downloaded in the U.S.

ISSUE:

What is the country of origin of the imported microwave radios for government procurement purposes?

LAW AND ANALYSIS:

Pursuant to subpart B of part 177, 19 CFR 177.21 et seq., which implements Title III of the Trade Agreements Act of 1979, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2511 et seq.), 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.

Under the rule of origin set forth under 19 U.S.C. 2518(4)(B):

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 Acquisition 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 name, character, or use distinct from that of the article or articles from which it was transformed.
48 CFR 25.003.

In order to determine whether a substantial transformation occurs when components of various origins are assembled into completed products, 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, factors such as the resources expended on product design and development, the extent and nature of post-assembly inspection and testing procedures, and the degree of skill required during the manufacturing process may be relevant when determining whether a substantial transformation has occurred. No one factor is determinative.

In determining whether the combining of parts or materials constitutes a substantial transformation, the determinative issue is the extent of operations performed and whether the parts lose their identity and become an integral part of the new article. *Belcrest Linens v. United States*, 573 F. Supp. 1149 (CIT 1983), aff'd 741 F. 2d 1368 (Fed. Cir. 1984). Assembly operations that are minimal or simple, as opposed to complex or meaningful, will generally not result in a substantial transformation. In Customs Service Decision ("C.S.D.") 85-25, 19 Cust. Bull. 844 (1985), CBP held that for purposes of the Generalized System of Preferences, the assembly of a large number of fabricated components onto a printed circuit board in a process involving a considerable amount of time and skill resulted in a substantial transformation. In that case, in excess of 50 discrete fabricated components were assembled.

In *Data General v. United States*, 4 CIT 182 (1982), the court determined that for purposes of determining eligibility under item 807.00, Tariff Schedule of the United States (predecessor to subheading 9802.00.80, Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States), the programming of a foreign Programmable Read Only Memory Chip ("PROM") in the United States substantially transformed the PROM into a U.S. article. In programming the imported PROM's, the U.S. engineers systematically caused various distinct electronic interconnections to be formed within each integrated circuit. The programming bestowed upon each circuit its electronic function that is, its "memory" which could be retrieved. A distinct physical change was effected in the PROM by the opening or closing of the fuses, depending on the method of programming. This physical alteration, not visible to the naked eye, could be discerned by electronic testing of the PROM. The court noted that the programs were designed by a U.S. project engineer with many years of experience. While replicating the program pattern from a "master" PROM

may be a quick one-step process, the development of the pattern and production of the "master" PROM required much time and expertise. The court noted that it was undisputed that programing altered the character of a PROM. The essence of the article, its interconnections or stored memory, was established by programming. The court concluded that altering the non-functional circuitry comprising a PROM through technological expertise in order to produce a functioning read only memory device, possessing a desired distinctive circuit pattern, was no less a substantial transformation than the manual interconnection of transistors, resistors and diodes upon a circuit board created a similar pattern.

It is your position that the country of origin is the U.S. because the final assembly, programming, customization of the software and testing results in a finished and operational microwave radio.

In this case, the software is developed in Japan and India, and the TRX and the modem are manufactured in Japan, which are significant components that are imported fully assembled. You state in your submission that "in terms of component material value content and functionality, the critical components that impart the essential character of the microwave radios, are of Japanese origin. . . ." The TRX carries the microwave signal, which is the essence of a microwave radio. For all these reasons, we concur that the TRX imparts the essential character to the microwave radios. Further, other significant parts such as the TRX chassis, the branching unit and a cable are produced in Japan. The assembly which occurs in the U.S. does not involve numerous parts and is a rather simple assembly. Given the totality of the factors considered in this case, we find that the country of origin of the microwave radio for government procurement purposes is Japan.

HOLDING:

Based on the facts provided, the microwave radio is considered a product of Japan for government procurement purposes.

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,

Sandra L. Bell,

Executive Director, Regulations and Rulings Office of International Trade.

[FR Doc. 2013-22878 Filed 9-19-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9111-14-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-5687-N-36]

60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: HUD-Owned Real Estate—Sales Contract and Addendums

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Housing, Office of Single Family Asset Management, 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:* November 19, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and/or OMB Control Number and should be sent to: Colette Pollard, Reports Management Officer, QDAM, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW., Room 4176, Washington, DC 20410-5000; telephone 202-402-3400 (this is not a toll-free number) or email at Colette.Pollard@hud.gov for a copy of the proposed forms or other available information. Persons with hearing or speech impairments may access this number through TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ivery W. Himes, Director, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW., Washington, DC 20410; email Ivery.W.Himes@hud.gov or telephone 202-708-1672. This is not a toll-free number. Persons with hearing or speech impairments may access this number through TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

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

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-Owned Real Estate—Sales Contract and Addendums.

OMB Approval Number: 2502-0306.

Type of Request (i.e. new, revision or extension of currently approved collection): Extension of a currently approved collection.

Form Number: HUD-9548; HUD-9544; HUD-9548-B; HUD-9548-C; HUD-9548-G; HUD-9548-H; HUD-9548-Y; HUD-9548-Z; SAMS-1101, SAMS-1103, SAMS-1108, SAMS-1110, SAMS-1111, SAMS-1111-A, SAMS-1117, SAMS-1120, SAMS-1204, SAMS-1205.

Description of the Need for the Information and Proposed Use: This collection of information consists of the sales contracts and addenda that will be used in binding contracts between purchasers of acquired single-family assets and HUD.

Respondents (i.e. affected public): Business and other for profit.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 13,155.

Estimated Number of Responses: 925,179.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.
Average Hours per Response: 2-30 minutes.

Total Estimated Burdens: 310,393.

B. Solicitation of Public Comment

This notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affected parties concerning the collection of information described in Section A on the following:

(1) 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;

(2) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information;

(3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond; including through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

HUD encourages interested parties to submit comment in response to these questions.

Authority: Section 3507 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35.