

Exhibit A  
Build America Buy America Act (BABAA)

**15. BUILD AMERICA, BUY AMERICA ACT (BABAA)**

The recipient must comply with the provisions of the Build America, Buy America Act (the “Act”). Pub. L. No. 117-58, §§ 70901-52, enacted on November 15, 2021. The Act requires that “none of the funds made available for a Federal financial assistance program for infrastructure may be obligated for a project unless all of the iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States.” Recipients of an award of Federal financial assistance from a program for infrastructure are hereby notified that none of the funds provided under this award may be used for a project for infrastructure unless:

- a. 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;
- b. 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; and
- c. All construction materials are manufactured in the United States. This means that all manufacturing processes for the construction material occurred in the United States.

The BABAA requirement applies to the entirety of an infrastructure project, even if only a portion of the project is funded by Federal funds. The requirement applies to each product, manufactured good, or construction material incorporated in the project.

**15.1 Definitions (as applied in this condition only)**

Construction Materials—include an article, material, or supply—other than an item of primarily iron or steel; a manufactured product; cement and cementitious materials; aggregates such as stone, sand, or gravel; or aggregate binding agents or additives—that is or 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.

Domestic Content Procurement Preference—means all iron and steel used in the project are produced in the United States; the manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States; or the construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States.

Infrastructure—includes, at a minimum, the structures, facilities, and equipment for, in the United States, roads, highways, and bridges; public transportation; dams, ports, harbors, and other maritime facilities; intercity passenger and freight railroads; freight and intermodal facilities; airports; water systems, including drinking water and wastewater systems; electrical transmission facilities and systems; utilities; broadband infrastructure; and buildings and real property. Infrastructure also includes structures, facilities, and equipment that generate, transport, and distribute energy, including electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. “Infrastructure” has a broad interpretation and the definition provided is illustrative and not exhaustive.

Manufactured Product—Items assembled out of components, or otherwise made or processed from raw materials into finished products. Manufactured products must be manufactured (assembled) in the United States, and the cost of components that were mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States must be 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.

Manufacturer’s Certification—Documentation provided by a manufacturer, certifying that the items provided by manufacturer meet the domestic preference requirements of the Act.

Project—means the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of infrastructure in the United States.

## 15.2 Compliance

The recipient must comply with the provisions of the Build America, Buy America Act (BABAA). Pub. L. No. 117-58, §§ 70901-52, enacted on November 15, 2021. By accepting these conditions, the recipient attests that they or their designee(s) will maintain documentation for BABAA provisions to indicate compliance.

Minimum records include certifications from manufacturers, the architect/engineers, and the prime contractor. Supporting documentation includes purchasing records and notes and photos taken by the Resident Project Representative (RPR)/ Resident Inspector (RI). Documentation must be available and reviewable upon request.

### 15.3 Evidence Standards

#### Manufacturers

For each item to which BABAA applies (every item permanently installed on the project, except for aggregate and aggregate binding materials), a manufacturer's certification letter or other document demonstrating compliance is required. It must, at a minimum, identify the item being certified (short written description as well as part number, if applicable) and affirm that the item complies with BABAA. This document must be signed by an authorized company representative. The manufacturer may submit a letter on letterhead or provide other evidence acceptable to the Agency.

#### Architects and Engineers (A/E)

The need to comply with BABAA will be spelled out in agreements for A/E services, construction contracts, and procurement contracts. Generally, the A/E contract will include, as a basic service, obtaining and maintaining all BABAA documentation (particularly manufacturers' certifications) during construction, which shall be transferred to the recipient upon substantial completion of the project. The architect or engineer should certify in writing to the completeness and accuracy of the manufacturers' certifications.

#### Resident project representative (RPR) / Resident inspector (RI)

As part of their duties, RPR/RI will be instructed to verify items delivered to the site and installed are accompanied by documentation of compliance with BABAA. They will photograph items as appropriate. RPR/RI daily logs and photographs will become part of the construction record and can be used as supporting information during audits, providing evidence for items that are buried or otherwise inaccessible.

#### Contractors

The construction contract(s) will include a requirement to procure and install only items that comply with BABAA or are subject to a waiver approved by the Secretary of Agriculture or designee. The contractors are to provide manufacturers' certifications for all BABAA compliant items to the architect/engineer no later than with applications for payment. At substantial completion, the contractor will be required to certify that all items used on the contract complied with BABAA and that all manufacturers' certifications were provided to the architect/engineer.

#### 15.4 Obtaining Waivers under the BABA Act

The Secretary of Agriculture or a designee may grant waivers to the procurement requirements under the following conditions:

- (1) *Nonavailability*. The Secretary of Agriculture or delegate determines that the iron, steel or relevant manufactured goods or construction materials are not produced or manufactured in sufficient and reasonably available commercial quantities of a satisfactory quality.
- (2) *Unreasonable cost*. The Secretary of Agriculture or delegate determines that the inclusion of domestic iron, steel, or relevant manufactured goods will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25%.
- (3) *Inconsistent with public interest*. The Secretary of Agriculture or delegate determines that the application of these restrictions would be inconsistent with the public interest.

#### 15.5 BABAA Waivers for Rural Development

A waiver of the domestic procurement requirement for a specific product in a specific infrastructure project may be obtained upon a satisfactory showing of evidence that the waiver is warranted by a recipient and a recommendation by the Agency. Waivers of the procurement requirement are granted by the Secretary of Agriculture or by a designee of the Secretary. The requirements are posted publicly at the USDA OCFO website: [USDA Buy America Waivers for Federal Financial Assistance | USDA located at https://www.usda.gov/ocfo/federal-financial-assistance-policy/USDABuyAmericaWaiver](https://www.usda.gov/ocfo/federal-financial-assistance-policy/USDABuyAmericaWaiver)

Before submitting a request for waiver, recipient should determine whether they qualify for agency-wide public interest waivers that have already been approved by USDA. One such public interest waiver is referred to as the “*De Minimis*, Small Grants, and Minor Components” waiver, which has three parts. *De Minimis* is intended to prevent restrictions on the procurement of materials and products that represent a small portion of an infrastructure project, specifically no more than 5% of the project costs up to a maximum of \$1,000,000, from hindering the overall project. *Small Grants* exempts projects below the Federal Simplified Acquisition Threshold of \$250,000 (the grant section also applies to small loans and loan guarantees). The *Minor Components* provision of the waiver exempts miscellaneous components of iron and steel that make up no more than 5% of the total cost of an iron or steel product used in a project.

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