



Buy-American Questions and Answers for Determining Whether Substantial Transformation Occurred in the U.S for Buy-American Compliance.

Subject: GPK Products Inc. Attachments for ARRA Questionnaire Pertaining to Flexible PVC Couplings.

1. Where all the components of the manufactured good manufactured in the United States, and were all of the components assembled into the final product in the U.S.? (NO)

Answer 1. Indiana Seal Flexible PVC Couplings incorporate the use of stainless steel band clamps to fasten the flexible PVC couplings to piping materials. Band clamps are purchased from Ideal Clamp Products, Inc that is located in Smyrna, TN 37167-6603 USA. They are a global leading designer and manufacturer of stainless steel band clamps with manufacturing facilities in Smyrna, Tennessee U.S.A and Matamoros, Mexico.

2. Was there a change in character or use of the good or the components in America? (Yes)

Answer 2a. – Yes, the raw materials will be changed into Flexible PVC Couplings. The raw material cannot be used as it's received.

Answer 2b. – Yes, the manufacturing process changed the product from one use to another. We are changing the raw material from pellet or liquid form into Flexible PVC Couplings.

Answer 2c – Yes, the manufacturing operation narrowed the range of uses. Our manufacturing process results in a finished product only used for sewer and drainage systems.

3. Was the process performed in the U.S. complex and meaningful? (Yes)

Answer 3a. – Yes, the process did take a substantial amount of time. The manufacturing of our product has multiple processes and can take from several minutes to complete.

Answer 3b. – Yes, the process is costly. Our company has a high amount of sophisticated machines and tooling.

Answer 3c. – Yes, the process does require a high level of skills. Our company has many skilled technicians running and maintaining equipment. Each machine operator while not a highly skilled craftsman must know multiple functions for each position.

Answer 3d. – Yes, the process required a number of different operations. The manufacturing process of our products requires many different operations from Injection Molding, Oven Fabrication, Cut and Splicing, Packaging and Shipping.

Answer 3e. - Yes, substantial value was added in the process. The manufacturing process of our products transforms raw materials into specified Flexible PVC Couplings that must meet the industry standards and fulfill our customer's needs.