



Food and
Nutrition
Service

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Regional and State Directors
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Limited exceptions to the Buy American provision. There are limited exceptions to the Buy American provision which allow for the purchase of foods not meeting the meetin/P <</MCIDA3c(th)-A the t

or receipts to ensure the domestic food that was solicited and awarded is the food that is received. SFAs also need to conduct a periodic review of storage facilities, freezers, refrigerators, dry storage, and warehouses to ensure the products received are the ones solicited, and awarded, and comply with the Buy American provision.

Monitoring of the Buy American provision by State agencies. State agencies conducting procurement reviews in conjunction with, or as a separate review from, the administrative review process must ensure SFA compliance with the Buy American provision. During a procurement review, State agencies should: (1) determine if SFAs are purchasing domestic commodities as defined in 7 CFR 210.21(d); (2) check that solicitations and contracts contain the Buy American certification language recommended in Questions 6 and 7 below; and (3) review a sample of supplier invoices or receipts to determine whether the solicited-for domestic foods were provided by the awarded contractor. If the SFA is non-compliant with the Buy American provision, the State agency must issue a finding and require corrective action which may include:

- Requiring contract amendments to include language to supply domestic foods, or a new solicitation if the contract amendment is determined, by the contracting parties or State agency, to be a material change;
- Attending a procurement training to increase compliance with procurement standards, including the Buy American provision; and
- Fiscal action for repeat or egregious findings, on a case-by-case basis with approval by the appropriate FNS Regional Office.

During an on-site administrative review, State agencies should look at the labels on a variety of food products in SFA storage facilities and if the State agency identifies non-domestic foods, the State agency must request documentation justifying the limited exception(s) outlined above. If such is not provided, the State agency must issue a finding and require corrective action, which may include:

- Requiring review of food deliveries for contractor compliance;
- Monitoring to ensure the correct domestic food components contracted for are delivered;
- Prior to accepting foods, ensuring that an alternative domestic food component, or an exception to purchase non-domestic foods, has been approved for delivery; and
- Fiscal action for repeat or egregious findings, on a case-by-case basis with approval by the appropriate FNS Regional Office.

Both the administrative review and procurement review teams should work together and communicate findings in order to provide comprehensive monitoring of the Buy American requirement.

State agencies are reminded to distribute this memorandum to SFAs immediately. SFAs should direct any questions concerning this guidance to their State agency. State agencies with questions should contact the appropriate FNS Regional Office.



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Buy American provision, subject to the limited exceptions noted in the memorandum above.

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space for the supplier to fill in the name of the product and its percentage of the domestic agricultural food component (by weight or volume) contained therein.

State agencies should also include such language in any prototype solicitation documents and contracts provided to the SFAs.

8) Can a product made from a U.S. agricultural product but manufactured in another country be purchased from the nonprofit school food service account absent a limited exception?

Answer: No. Section 12(n) of the National School Lunch Act defines “domestic commodity or product” as one that is produced and *processed* in the U.S. substantially using agricultural commodities that are produced in the U.S.” This means that the product must be processed entirely in the U.S. and must substantially use domestic agricultural commodities. A large number of items received by schools state on the label that they are “packed” in the U.S. Non-domestic foods packed in the U.S. or non-domestic foods in packaging produced in the U.S. do not meet the Buy American requirements.

9) Can FNS or a State agency provide a list of foods that are not available domestically and therefore not subject to tnt