

CBPL No.	ASTM	Title
27-14	D2622	Standard Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum Products.
27-46	D5002	Density of Crude Oils by Digital Density Meter.
27-48	D4052	Standard Test Method for Density and Relative Density of Liquids by Digital Density Meter.
27-50	D93	Standard Test Methods for Flash-Point by Pensky-Martens Closed Cup Tester.
27-53	D2709	Standard Test Method for Water and Sediment in Middle Distillate Fuels by Centrifuge.
27-54	D1796	Standard Test Method for Water and Sediment in Fuel Oils by the Centrifuge Method.
27-58	D5191	Standard Test Method For Vapor Pressure of Petroleum Products.

Anyone wishing to employ this entity to conduct laboratory analyses and gauger services should request and receive written assurances from the entity that it is accredited or approved by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection to conduct the specific test or gauger service requested. Alternatively, inquiries regarding the specific test or gauger service this entity is accredited or approved to perform may be directed to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection by calling (202) 344-1060. The inquiry may also be sent to [CBPGaugersLabs@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:CBPGaugersLabs@cbp.dhs.gov). Please reference the Web site listed below for a complete listing of CBP approved gaugers and accredited laboratories. <http://www.cbp.gov/about/labs-scientific/commercial-gaugers-and-laboratories>.

Dated: February 16, 2016.

**Ira S. Reese,**

*Executive Director, Laboratories and Scientific Services Directorate.*

[FR Doc. 2016-03553 Filed 2-19-16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9111-14-P

## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### U.S. Customs and Border Protection

#### Notice of Issuance of Final Determination Concerning Certain Data Protection Software Products

**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 certain data protection software products. Based upon the facts presented, CBP has concluded that the country of origin of the software products is the United States for purposes of U.S. Government procurement.

**DATES:** The final determination was issued on February 12, 2016. 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 no later than March 23, 2016.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ross Cunningham, Valuation and Special Programs Branch, Regulations and Rulings, Office of International Trade (202) 325-0034.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice is hereby given that on February 12, 2016, pursuant to subpart B of Part 177, U.S. Customs and Border Protection Regulations (19 CFR part 177, subpart B), CBP issued a final determination concerning the country of origin of certain data protection software products known as WebALARM, WebALARM [Embedded], TheGRID Basic, and TheGrid Beacon, which may be offered to the U.S. Government under an undesignated government procurement contract. This final determination, HQ H268858, was issued 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 the processing in the United States results in a substantial transformation. Therefore, the country of origin of the software products is the United States 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: February 12, 2016.

**Joanne Roman Stump,**

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

Attachment

HQ H268858

February 12, 2016

OT:RR:CTF:VS H268858 RMC

CATEGORY: Country of Origin

Dan Minutillo  
Minutillo: A Law Corporation  
841 Blossom Hill Road  
Second Floor  
P.O. Box 20698  
San Jose, CA 95160

Re: U.S. Government Procurement;  
Country of Origin of Data Protection Software; Substantial Transformation

Dear Mr. Minutillo:

This is in response to your letter dated August 18, 2015, requesting a final determination on behalf of e-Lock Corporation (“e-Lock”) pursuant to Subpart B of Part 177 of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (“CBP”) Regulations (19 C.F.R. 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 for products offered for sale to the U.S. Government. This final determination concerns the country of origin of four data-protection software products. As a U.S. importer, e-Lock is a party-at-interest within the meaning of 19 C.F.R. § 177.22(d)(1) and is entitled to request this final determination.

#### FACTS:

E-Lock is a Malaysia based developer of cyber-security software that helps to prevent identity theft and threats to data integrity. This request concerns four software products that e-Lock wishes to offer for sale to the federal government: (1) WebALARM; (2) WebALARM [Embedded]; (3) TheGRID Basic; and (4) TheGRID Beacon. The WebALARM products are designed to protect files and data from unauthorized changes. The two products are similar except that WebALARM [Embedded] is embedded to become part of an integrated security package. TheGRID products provide user-identification and authentication functionality and are designed to protect against online theft by providing two-factor authentication and optional mutual authentication. The two products are similar except that TheGRID Beacon is designed for mobile applications.

All four software products are produced using the same three-step

process that essentially involves: (1) Writing the source code in Malaysia; (2) compiling the source code into usable object code in the United States; and (3) installing the finished software on U.S.-origin discs in the United States.

In a submission dated October 15, 2015, e-Lock provided additional information on the processes involved in creating source code and compiling it into object code in steps (1) and (2).

1. Writing e-Lock Source Code

a. Creating new source code project in e-Lock's source code repository server;

b. Using tools like Microsoft Visual Studio, Android Studio, Eclipse, Xcode, and Text Editors, e-Lock's software programmer starts writing computer code in C++, Java, and Objective-C languages;

c. Designing graphical layout using Visual Studio, Android Studio, or Xcode; and

d. (b) and (c) above are prepared and checked into source code repository server.

2. Compiling e-Lock Source Code into Object Code

a. The software builder signs into the continuous integration ("CI") server and performs a "build" action;

b. The CI server immediately checks out the latest version of source code from the repository server and performs compilation process;

c. Source code is then compiled into machine code for each relevant platform on Windows, Linux, Android, and iOS;

d. Incompatibilities or errors during compilation are handed; and

e. Source code is verified or rectified as needed.

After e-Lock's engineers compile the source code into object code in the United States, the continuous integration server automatically constructs installation packages for testing and executable files for various platforms. Finally, a plan for testing is developed and engineers perform software testing, unit and/or integration testing, regressions and/or performance testing, and acceptance testing. If the code passes the tests described above, the software-development phase is complete.

E-Lock also provided information on the costs and time associated with writing the source code in Malaysia and compiling the object code in the United States. E-Lock also noted that U.S.-based subcontracts and personnel install, distribute, and provide technical support for the finished products after sale.

E-Lock argues that the Malaysian source code is substantially transformed when it is compiled into usable object code in the United States and that the

country of origin for government-procurement purposes is thus the United States.

**ISSUE:**

Whether the four software products are products of the United States for government-procurement purposes.

**LAW & ANALYSIS:**

Pursuant to Subpart B of Part 177, 19 C.F.R. § 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 C.F.R. § 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 Procurement Regulations. See 19 C.F.R. § 177.21. In this regard, CBP recognizes that the Federal Procurement 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. The Federal Procurement Regulations define "U.S.-made end product" as:

[A]n 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 a name, character, or use distinct from that of the article or articles from which it was transformed.

See 48 C.F.R. § 25.403(c)(1).

The issue in this case is whether e-Lock's Malaysian-developed source code is substantially transformed in the United States when engineers compile it into object code and load it onto U.S.-origin disks. E-Lock argues that the source code is "substantially different in

nature, function, name and character than the final product after code compilation." Thus, according to e-Lock, the finished software is substantially transformed in the United States and the country of origin for government-procurement purposes is the United States.

The "source code" written in Malaysia and the "object code" compiled in the United States differ in several important ways. Source code is a "computer program written in a high level human readable language." See, e.g., Daniel S. Lin, Matthew Sag, and Ronald S. Laurie, *Source Code versus Object Code: Patent Implications for the Open Source Community*, 18 Santa Clara High Tech. L.J. 235, 238 (2001). While it is easier for humans to read and write programs in "high level human readable languages," computers cannot execute these programs. See Note, *Copyright Protection of Computer Program Object Code*, 96 Harv. L. Rev. 1723, 1724 (1983). Computers can execute only "object code," which is a program consisting of clusters of "0" and "1" symbols. *Id.* Programmers create object code from source code by feeding it into a program known as a "compiler." *Id.* Thus, step (1), the writing of source code in Malaysia, involves the creation of computer instructions in a high level human readable language, whereas step (2), which is performed in the United States, involves the compilation of those instructions into a format that computers can execute.

CBP has consistently held that conducting a "software build"—i.e., compiling source code into object code—results in a substantial transformation. See, e.g., Headquarters Ruling ("HQ") H192146, dated June 8, 2012 (holding that "software is substantially transformed into a new article with a new name, character and use in the country where the software build is performed"). For example, e-Lock cites HQ H243606, dated Dec. 4, 2013, in which an importer developed DocAve Software, a comprehensive suite of applications for Microsoft SharePoint, in both the United States and China. While most of the source code was programmed in China, the source code was compiled into object code (i.e., "built") in the United States. CBP held that "the software build performed in the U.S. substantially transforms the software modules developed in China and the U.S. into a new article with a new name, character and use . . .". The country of origin of DocAve Software was thus the United States for purposes of U.S. Government procurement.

As in H192146 and H243606, e-Lock also conducts a software build in the United States. This process is sufficient to create a new article with a new name, character and use: the name of the product changes from source code to object code, the character changes from computer code to finished software, and the use changes from instructions to an executable program.

**HOLDING:**

The country of origin of the finished software products is the United States for purposes of government procurement.

Notice of this final determination will be given in the Federal Register, as required by 19 C.F.R. § 177.29. Any party-at-interest other than the party which requested this final determination may request, pursuant to 19 C.F.R. § 177.31, that CBP reexamine the matter anew and issue a new final determination. Pursuant to 19 C.F.R. § 177.30, any party-at-interest may, within 30 days of publication of the Federal Register Notice referenced above, seek judicial review of this final determination before the Court of International Trade.

Sincerely,  
Joanne Roman Stump  
Acting Executive Director Regulations & Rulings  
Office of International Trade

[FR Doc. 2016-03552 Filed 2-19-16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE P**

**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

**U.S. Customs and Border Protection**

**Accreditation and Approval of Amspec Services, LLC, as a Commercial Gauger and Laboratory**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security.

**ACTION:** Notice of accreditation and approval of AmSpec Services, LLC, as a commercial gauger and laboratory.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given, pursuant to CBP regulations, that AmSpec Services, LLC, has been approved to gauge petroleum and certain petroleum products and accredited to test petroleum and certain petroleum products for customs purposes for the next three years as of July 13, 2015.

**DATES: Effective Dates:** The accreditation and approval of AmSpec Services, LLC, as commercial gauger and laboratory became effective on July

13, 2015. The next triennial inspection date will be scheduled for July 2018.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Approved Gauger and Accredited Laboratories Manager, Laboratories and Scientific Services Directorate, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Suite 1500N, Washington, DC 20229, tel. 202-344-1060.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice is hereby given pursuant to 19 CFR 151.12 and 19 CFR 151.13, that AmSpec Services, LLC, 4117 Montgomery St., Savannah, GA 31405, has been approved to gauge petroleum and certain petroleum products and accredited to test petroleum and certain petroleum products for customs purposes, in accordance with the provisions of 19 CFR 151.12 and 19 CFR 151.13. AmSpec Services, LLC is approved for the following gauging procedures for petroleum and certain petroleum products from the American Petroleum Institute (API):

API Chapters	Title
1 .....	Vocabulary.
3 .....	Tank Gauging.
7 .....	Temperature Determination.
8 .....	Sampling.
9 .....	Density Determinations.
11 .....	Physical Properties.
12 .....	Calculations.
17 .....	Maritime Measurement.

AmSpec Services, LLC is accredited for the following laboratory analysis procedures and methods for petroleum and certain petroleum products set forth by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Laboratory Methods (CBPL) and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM):

CBPL No.	ASTM	Title
27-01	D287	Standard Test Method for API Gravity of crude Petroleum and Petroleum Products.
27-02	D1298	Standard Practice for Density, Relative Density (Specific Gravity), or API Gravity of Crude Petroleum and Liquid Petroleum Products by Hydrometer Meter.
27-03	D4006	Standard Test Method for Water in Crude Oil by Distillation.
27-04	D95	Standard Test Method for Water in Petroleum Products and Bituminous Materials by Distillation.

CBPL No.	ASTM	Title
27-05	D4928	Standard Test Method for Water in Crude Oils by Coulometric Karl Fischer Titration.
27-06	D473	Standard Test Method for Sediment in Crude Oils and Fuel Oils by the Extraction Method.
27-08	D86	Standard Test Method for Distillation of Petroleum Products.
27-11	D445	Standard Test Method for Kinematic Viscosity of Transparent and Opaque Liquids.
27-13	D4294	Standard Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum and Petroleum Products by Energy-Dispersive X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometry.
27-20	D4057	Standard Practice for Manual Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products.
27-48	D4052	Standard Test Method for Density and Relative Density of Liquids by Digital Density Meter.
27-50	D93	Standard Test Methods for Flash-Point by Pensky-Martens Closed Cup Tester.
27-53	D2709	Standard Test Method for Water and Sediment in Middle Distillate Fuels by Centrifuge.
27-54	D1796	Standard Test Method for Water and Sediment in Fuel Oils by the Centrifuge Method.
27-58	D5191	Standard Test Method For Vapor Pressure of Petroleum Products.

Anyone wishing to employ this entity to conduct laboratory analyses and gauger services should request and receive written assurances from the entity that it is accredited or approved by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection to conduct the specific test or gauger service requested. Alternatively, inquiries regarding the specific test or gauger service this entity is accredited or approved to perform may be directed to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection by calling (202) 344-1060. The inquiry may also be sent to [CBPGaugersLabs@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:CBPGaugersLabs@cbp.dhs.gov). Please reference the Web site listed below for a complete listing of CBP approved gaugers and accredited laboratories. <http://www.cbp.gov/about/labs-scientific/commercial-gaugers-and-laboratories>.