

PRODUCT BULLETIN



A WireCo® WorldGroup Brand

September 2007

I want a wire rope that is **Made in USA**



I want a wire rope that is **Domestic**



I want a wire rope that is **American Made**



–Are they the same? What do I do?

The answer is that they can be very different or exactly the same. Questions must be asked and additional information obtained to know what is desired.

Over the years some common phrases have been given specific definitions. When someone asks for any variation of a “US made wire rope”, additional questions are required. Following are three of the most common definitions.

Domestic Wire Rope and Cable

Most of the time when someone asks for a US made rope, they want a rope that is stranded and closed in the USA. The Committee of Domestic Steel Wire Rope and Specialty Cable Manufacturers has defined “Domestic Wire Rope and Cable” as a rope that is “Stranded and Closed in the USA”. The components that go into making the rope (steel, lube, cores, etc.) may have been produced outside the USA, but the stranding of the outer strands and closing of the rope around the core is done in the USA. Ropes produced at WireCo WorldGroup’s US facilities meet this Domestic Wire Rope and Cable definition.

Buy American Act

The next level in requirements is the Buy American Act. This act requires that the supplies (wire rope) be manufactured in the US and that the percentage of domestic components in them exceed a certain value. WireCo WorldGroup needs to know that a rope must meet the Buy American Act at the time of inquiry as it may affect the price and availability of the product. This is not a common requirement, but it may be in an inquiry.

Buy America Requirement

The most stringent requirement is the “Buy America Requirement” of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act. This requires that all manufacturing processes, including the “melting and manufacturing” of the steel, occur in the US. If a US steel manufacturer used foreign billets to make the rod (that we used for wire production), the rope would not meet the Buy America Requirement. The steel billets and all subsequent processes in manufacturing must occur in the US to meet the Buy America Requirement. WireCo WorldGroup needs to know that a rope must meet the Buy America Requirement at the time of inquiry as it may affect the price and availability of the product.

The Buy America Requirement applies to projects funded by the US Department of Transportation. Frequently these are state or local directed projects that receive full or partial funding from the US DOT. Typically they will be projects for highways, bridges or light rail systems—something involving transportation. This requirement applies to wire rope and assemblies that become part of the completed project, such as highway guardrail ropes, ropes on vertical lift bridges, PC strand in bridges or retention walls and assemblies used on bridges. Wire rope used during the construction of the project, such as wire ropes on cranes or wire rope slings are not affected by the Act. If it is suspected that the rope or assemblies are going to be a permanent part of a transportation related project, it must be determined if it is US DOT funded and thus required to meet the Buy America Requirements.

Other Definitions

There can be local jurisdictional or contractual “definitions” of US/Domestic/American made wire rope. Watch for these and any other special requirements contained in requests for quotations and provide this information to WireCo WorldGroup as it will affect pricing and delivery.