



Do Copperhead Products Meet BABA Requirements?

Yes, Copperhead's tracer wire, connectors, ground rods, access points, and marker posts meet the requirements of BABA. Curious about what BABA is and why it's important that utilities purchase tracer wire and other products that comply with the requirements of BABA? Let's take a closer look.

What is BABA? BABA is the acronym for *The Build America, Buy America Act* which was enacted as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act on November 15, 2021. In short, BABA requires that all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used by non-federal entities in federally funded infrastructure projects are produced in the United States.

The intent of BABA and other Buy America domestic procurement preference laws is to help ensure that U.S. taxpayer dollars are reinvested in the American worker and in companies and processes using the highest labor and environmental standards. It goes further to ensure that U.S. infrastructure is built with high-quality American-made materials.

What does 'produced in the United States' mean? According to the Act (Sec. 70912), in the case of iron or steel products, it means that all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, occurred in the United States. In the case of manufactured products, it means that the product was manufactured in the U.S. and that the cost of the component parts that are mined, produced, or manufactured in the U.S. is greater than 55% of the total cost of all components of the manufactured products. It also means that all construction materials used in covered projects must be manufactured in the United States.

Why is it important that Copperhead's products are made in the USA? That's easy. As Copperhead's president, Jeff Atwood, explains: "We are a U.S. manufacturer, and we support the ideal of keeping manufacturing in the United States. We have to consider what our products do. They protect underground U.S. utility infrastructure. So, our products need to work. Plain and simple. The quality of our products is very, very important. The best way to achieve superior quality is through U.S. manufacturing." Since our founding in 2004, Copperhead remains committed to U.S. manufacturing and sourcing to the greatest extent possible.

Where are Copperhead wire and non-wire products made? Copperhead tracer wire is manufactured in Fayetteville, Tennessee by the most tenured metal-cladding company in the United States, Copperweld®. Here, copper is metallurgically bonded to a steel core to achieve the perfect blend of strength and conductivity. Both the copper and the steel used in this process are procured domestically, and the finished conductor is insulated with a protective, durable HDPE coating before heading out to our customers.

Copperhead connectors, ground rods, access points, and marker posts are also manufactured in multiple locations in the United States. We believe that it's important to create strong relationships with domestic manufacturers with the same quality standards as Copperhead.

Does Copperhead ever source products or materials internationally? While Copperhead tracer wire, connectors, ground rods, access points, and marker posts are manufactured and/or sourced right here in the United States, we may source or purchase other non-wire products overseas when supply is simply unavailable or significantly limited in the United States. Although rare, this might be necessary to meet customer demand.

Meeting BABA requirements supports American manufacturing and the American worker. To be sure your products are manufactured in the U.S., be sure to ask the manufacturer for documentation. For more details about the Act, visit <https://www.commerce.gov/oam/build-america-buy-america>.

Source: "Build America, Buy America Act", Office of Acquisition Management, <https://www.commerce.gov/oam/build-america-buy-america>

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