The Build America, Buy America Act (BABAA) requires recipients and subrecipients of certain FEMA financial assistance programs to follow three key requirements for their infrastructure projects:

1. Domestic Preferences

Recipients and subrecipients must ensure that all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in their infrastructure projects are produced in the United States.

2. Contract Language

Contracts must include a contract provision explaining the BABAA requirements and a self-certification of compliance with the domestic preference requirements. Consult the Buy America Preference in FEMA Financial Assistance Programs for Infrastructure, FEMA Interim Policy #207-22-0001 for more information and sample language.

3. Waivers

Recipients and subrecipients may request a waiver from FEMA if the circumstances meet the criteria for an allowable waiver type. The allowable waiver types include nonavailability, unreasonable cost, and public interest. Follow the steps and checklist outlined in the BABAA Best Practices Guide to ensure timely review of the waiver request.

For more information about BABAA requirements, visit the “Buy America” Preference page on FEMA.gov.