



## **FAQ**

# **BUILD AMERICA, BUY AMERICA (BABA) ACT COMPLIANCE AND BEAD PROGRAM**

### **What is the Build America, Buy America (BABA) Act?**

The BABA Act is a U.S. federal law that requires infrastructure projects funded by federal dollars to use American-made materials. This includes iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials.

### **What is BEAD?**

The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program is part of the U.S. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, that was enacted in November 2021. The BEAD Program provides \$42.5 billion in federal grant funding to U.S. states and territories for the planning, deployment, training, and adoption of projects and activities that help provide high-speed internet access to unserved (at or below 25 Mbps download / 3 Mbps upload) and underserved (at or below 100 Mbps download / 20 Mbps upload) communities.

### **How does the BABA Act impact BEAD-funded projects?**

Since the BEAD program uses federal dollars and is part of the IIJA, all projects receiving funding from this program must comply with BABA Act provisions. This means most materials used for BEAD-funded projects must be made in the U.S. and adhere to strict domestic manufacturing requirements.

### **What materials are covered under the BABA Act?**

The BABA Act covers iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials. For these materials to comply, most must adhere to specific domestic manufacturing requirements, as outlined in the [U.S. Department of Commerce's final BEAD BABA Waiver](#).

### **Does PLP manufacture products compliant with the BABA Act requirements?**

**Yes.** In fact, most of our products intended for U.S. customers are already being produced at our plants in Arkansas, North Carolina, and Ohio.



For decades, PLP's world-class U.S. manufacturing sites have produced millions of high-quality, American-made components utilized by communications networks and electric power systems throughout the U.S. and abroad.

### **How long has PLP been manufacturing in the United States?**

**Over 75 years.** Our first U.S. manufacturing plant opened in 1947 in Cleveland, Ohio – a city we still proudly call home to our Global Headquarters and Research & Development Center.

Today, our industry-leading plants in Arkansas, North Carolina, and Ohio continue this legacy of U.S. manufacturing by producing critical infrastructure components used by the world's leading network service providers, electric utilities, and contractors.

### **Does PLP have different part numbers for its BABA-compliant products?**

**No.** Since most of our products are already made in America and compliant, there is no need to complicate things for our distributor partners and end customers. The same PLP part numbers that customers are familiar with and have been ordering for decades will continue to be used.

### **How does PLP ensure compliance with the BABA Act?**

As one of the largest U.S. manufacturers of many components that require BABA compliance, we are committed to ensuring that our customers and their infrastructure projects adhere to the IIJA's BABA mandate - not only because it supports American jobs and the overall economy, but also because it aligns with our long-standing pledge to provide our customers with the highest-quality, American-made products.

We ensure this by sourcing and manufacturing our products domestically, by engaging in rigorous supply chain management practices, and by conducting regular audits to confirm all materials meet BABA requirements.

### **How does PLP handle BABA Act compliance documentation?**

PLP maintains detailed records and documentation to prove BABA compliance. This includes certifications from suppliers, production logs, and other relevant documentation that can be provided to customers and regulatory bodies upon request.



## **Are there any exceptions to the BABA Act requirements?**

Yes, there are limited exceptions when compliance is not feasible, such as if a compliant material is not readily available. However, such waivers are rare and usually require substantial justification.

## **Are U.S.-made products more expensive than foreign made?**

While it can't be said across the board, the short answer is **No** - especially when it comes to PLP's products. While we consider our products to be premium tier, we work hard to ensure our costs are competitive, not just compared to other similar U.S. manufacturers, but also compared to similar foreign-made options.

We are able to achieve price competitiveness due to our high-volume leadership position for many products, by employing automated production processes whenever possible, by partnering with key suppliers to achieve economies of scale, and by instituting strategic cost reduction programs.

## **What steps should BEAD funding recipients take to ensure their projects comply with BABA mandates?**

Customers should work closely with U.S. manufacturers and suppliers they trust, those that have a long-standing reputation for producing high-quality American-made products. This will help reduce the risk for funding disqualification and ensure America's broadband infrastructure is built with premium materials made in the U.S. by American workers.

Additionally, leveraging existing BABA-complaint materials from trusted U.S. manufacturing vendors will help ensure projects remain on schedule. Lead times from manufacturers whose products are already tested, qualified, and made in the USA will generally be significantly shorter than from manufacturers who must onshore production to meet BABA Act requirements and retest/requalify to meet stringent testing standards.

## **How can customers learn more about PLP's commitment to U.S. manufacturing and support of U.S. infrastructure projects?**

Please visit [GO.PLP.COM/BABA](https://GO.PLP.COM/BABA) to learn more.

With over 75 years of U.S. manufacturing experience, we're here to help answer all your BABA Act and BEAD Program questions. Simply fill out the form at the bottom of that webpage and one of our knowledgeable representatives will get back to you soon.