



# BUY AMERICA FAQs

## 1 What do Buy America and Buy American mean?

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 require the use of U.S.-made products for projects funded by the U.S. Government and procurements made directly by the U.S. Government agencies or some branch of the U.S. military. In our industry, these projects are typically part of – but not exclusive to – the rebuild of infrastructure (i.e., highways, bridges, buildings, etc.). The funding has been commonly referred to as “stimulus money,” and is provided to contractors with the stipulation that all products and materials they use in the manufacturing of their products be made in the U.S. This includes welding consumables.

## 2 What is ARRA?

ARRA stands for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The Act prohibits the use of recovery funds for a project for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public building or public work unless all of the iron, steel, and manufactured goods used in the project are produced in the United States. This “made in the U.S.A.” requirement not only includes finished products such as welding consumables, but also stipulates that the raw material (steel) also be made and melted in a U.S. steel mill or facility.

## 3 What is the Buy America program through Lincoln Electric?

Lincoln Electric has a comprehensive portfolio of welding consumables that use steel that is made and melted in the U.S. These products have unique part numbers and are identified with BUY AMERICA as the suffix in the trade name. The certificates of conformance also have verbiage stating that these products comply to ARRA requirements. A complete listing of products can be found on [www.lincolnelectric.com/buyamerica](http://www.lincolnelectric.com/buyamerica). If additional products are needed, please contact your local Lincoln technical sales representative.

## 4 What Lincoln Electric products comply with the Buy America specifications?

The following products currently comply with Buy America specifications. We continue to qualify U.S. steel suppliers in an effort to expand our Buy America portfolio offering.

Excalibur  
Lincolnweld  
Ultracore  
Lincoln  
Superarc

## 5 Can we trace the green rod and associated steel mill from our Q1 standard price book material?

Lincoln Electric's Q1 certification, by definition, means that all incoming raw materials are tested using a controlled chemical composition method. All products are traceable exclusively to the date of manufacture, production shift, and the operator who made the product. This Q1 number does NOT provide traceability to the steel that was used to make the product. We also procure our steel from different mills, dependent upon availability, to maintain our high quality standards and to remain price-competitive. Therefore, we cannot take a Q1 standard price book item and guarantee that it complies with Buy America.

If further traceability is needed (ie. heat of the green rod) Lincoln Electric can provide Q2 lot controlled and tested material either as standard or through our Specials Department. For further information, please contact your local Lincoln technical sales representative.

## 6 What consumables are exempt from Buy America?

The Buy America laws specify the need for the "iron and steel" to be produced in the United States. Therefore, submerged arc fluxes and the mixes for flux-cored wires and stick electrodes are exempt from these requirements. However, the steel used in stick electrodes and flux-cored wires must comply.

## 7 Are Buy America products lot-controlled and do they have actual certificates per lot?

All Buy America products come with the standard certificate of conformance potentially for multiple lots. All SAW, TIG cut lengths, as well as stainless and nickel products come standard with actual wire composition per lot.

## 8 How can I identify a product complies with Buy America?

All product that comply with Buy America will have the words, (BUY AMERICA) in the suffix of the name. The Q lot number can be traced to a certificate (either Q1 certificate of conformance or Q2/Q3 actual certificate of conformance) that states the following.

This Q1 Lot of material was made in the U.S.A. using steel melted and manufactured in the U.S.A. For SMAW and FCAW products, non-steel components can be from U.S.A. and imported sources.

### CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE POLICY

The business of The Lincoln Electric Company is manufacturing and selling high quality welding equipment, consumables, and cutting equipment. Our challenge is to meet the needs of our customers and to exceed their expectations. On occasion, purchasers may ask Lincoln Electric for information or advice about their use of our products. Our employees respond to inquiries to the best of their ability based on information provided to them by the customers and the knowledge they may have concerning the application. Our employees, however, are not in a position to verify the information provided or to evaluate the engineering requirements for the particular weldment. Accordingly, Lincoln Electric does not warrant or guarantee or assume any liability with respect to such information or advice. Moreover, the provision of such information or advice does not create, expand, or alter any warranty on our products. Any express or implied warranty that might arise from the information or advice, including any implied warranty of merchantability or any warranty of fitness for any customers' particular purpose is specifically disclaimed.

Lincoln Electric is a responsive manufacturer, but the selection and use of specific products sold by Lincoln Electric is solely within the control of, and remains the sole responsibility of the customer. Many variables beyond the control of Lincoln Electric affect the results obtained in applying these types of fabrication methods and service requirements.

Subject to Change – This information is accurate to the best of our knowledge at the time of printing. Please refer to [www.lincolnelectric.com](http://www.lincolnelectric.com) for any updated information.

