



USA misrepresentations on GSA Advantage

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Thu, May 26, 2016 at 1:47 PM

To: Sheri Meadema - Q0A [REDACTED], Thomas Sharpe - Q [REDACTED]

Cc: Judith Zawatsky - QD0C [REDACTED]

Tom, Sheri,

As you know, the GSA sent a notice on May 5 to its contractors requiring them to verify the country of origin for all products on their contracts, and correct or delete any product pages containing false U.S.-origin claims. In that notice, the GSA imposed a final deadline of today, May 26, 2016, and informed the contractors that any future Made in America misrepresentations "could result in the removal of your entire GSAdvantage file and/or subject your contact to cancellation..."

Today, TINA.org audited the 118 examples of products bearing false U.S.-origin designations on the GSA Advantage website that we originally provided the GSA well over two months ago, and found that U.S.-origin misrepresentations *still* remain on the site. Specifically, 12 out of the 118 examples we provided show false U.S.-origin information as of today. And this finding does not account for other possible product listings that were not part of TINA.org's sampling.

This finding is troubling, especially in light of the amount of time that has elapsed since the GSA was put on notice about this issue. Even more concerning, however, is that rather than take immediate action to fully correct this longstanding problem, the GSA sent a revised notice to its contractors yesterday stating that it is removing the May 26 deadline previously communicated. In other words, the GSA does not appear to be taking immediate action with respect to any remaining U.S.-origin misrepresentations on its website, contrary to its statement in its May 5 notice.

Extending the time for contractors to break the law is simply not acceptable, runs contrary to the GSA's mandate, and is harmful to the U.S. economy. Companies with false Made in the USA representations on the GSA Advantage website need to be held accountable today, and not given an indefinite hall pass to flout the law. Our request is simple: We ask only that the GSA and its contractors abide by Made in USA law – today, tomorrow, and into the foreseeable future.

Sincerely,

Laura

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