

Textiles and General Government Procurement

The Berry Amendment is not the only law governing government procurement. For civilian government procurement, different rules apply.

In 2010, a new requirement, known as the Kissell Amendment, requires Berry Amendment-like procurement rules for certain agencies within the Department of Homeland Security. At present, this includes the U.S. Coast Guard and the Transportation Security Administration.

The Buy American Act sets requirements for much of the non-military procurement contracts with the federal government. While not as strict as the rules for military procurement, the intent of the law is to require procurement from U.S. sources. The Buy American Act was by Congress passed in 1933 and signed by President Hoover on his last full day in office (March 3, 1933), required the United States government to prefer U.S.-made products in its purchases.

The General Services Administration (GSA) oversees purchases for much of the federal government. Companies wishing to sell to the Federal government, either GSA or DoD, must register in the Central Contractor Registration system. The GSA website includes detailed information about registering and selling to the federal government. In addition, every department of the federal government has a small business arm to assist small businesses that wish to sell products and services to the government.

These are just some of the countless combat essential items containing components that the U.S. textile industry provides to support our men and women in the Armed Forces:

combat and flight uniforms
helmets
flak jackets
gear for extreme weather operations
parachutes
aircraft fuel cells
sandbags
tents and shelters
sheets
blankets and hospital supplies
airplane panels
ammunition bags/pouches
fabric for bullet-proof vests/helmets

chemical protective suits
communication lines (optical fiberglass)
extreme weather protective fabrics
interfacing and lining in apparel and shoes
parachutes and parachute harnesses
personal flotation devices
pontoon bridges
rafts
ropes and cables
ship composites
stealth fighter plane graphite fibers
wet suits