



April 22, 2016

**VIA OVERNIGHT MAIL AND EMAIL**

Thomas A. Sharpe, Commissioner  
Federal Acquisition Service  
U.S. General Services Administration  
1800 F Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20405  
[REDACTED]

Carol Fortine Ochoa, Inspector General  
U.S. General Services Administration  
1800 F. Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20405  
[REDACTED]

Re: USA misrepresentations on GSA Advantage!® website

Dear Mr. Sharpe and Ms. Ochoa:

Over a month ago, TINA.org notified the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) that an investigation revealed a sampling of more than 100 foreign-made products listed for sale on the GSA Advantage website that were inaccurately marked as Made in the U.S.A.<sup>1</sup> Some 30 days later, TINA.org was informed that the GSA's Federal Acquisition Service had reviewed the errors and taken action "as appropriate." In support of this contention, a list of each of the 118 part numbers identified in TINA.org's database of errors was included, which indicates the GSA's disposition for each item (i.e., whether the product's origin designation was modified, removed, or confirmed as U.S.-made).

We have subsequently completed an audit of the 118 product listings on the GSA Advantage website, and found that the representations regarding modifications and removals are inaccurate for the vast majority of products on the GSA list. Specifically, 77 out of the 118 products we originally identified are still marked as U.S.-made on the GSA Advantage website when the manufacturers for those products have identified them as foreign-made.

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<sup>1</sup> These errors existed despite the fact that, in January 2016, U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer notified the GSA that certain false U.S.-origin designations existed on its GSA Advantage website.

As a result, we are having difficulty understanding why such a large percentage of the sampling we provided last month remains inaccurate as compared to information provided on the products' manufacturers' websites. If indeed the fault for this inaccurate or conflicting information lies with the manufacturers, as Mr. Sharpe's April 15<sup>th</sup> letter suggests, we find it troubling that the GSA is continuing to do business with manufacturers that are violating, among other things, Made in the USA laws.

As we have stressed, such origin designation errors on the GSA Advantage website have a real and significant impact on competitors who correctly label their products and comply with the law, and we find it disheartening that so many errors still exist three months after the GSA was initially put on notice, and one month after we provided the GSA with a specific list of errors.

We would request further remedial actions to ensure that **all** U.S-origin misrepresentations are corrected immediately.

Sincerely,



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