

EPA Region I Buy American Waiver Process Timeline (12/11/09)

The following information provides an estimated timeline based on our experience over the past six months:

1. ARRA assistance recipient submits complete waiver request package to the EPA Regional Office through region1waiver@epa.gov website.
2. EPA Regional Office conducts initial review for “completeness”. If submittal is “incomplete”, referred back to ARRA recipient for additional information. If “complete”, submittal is forwarded to EPA national contractor (Cadmus). (2-5 days)
3. Cadmus initiates third party technical assessment. If additional information is necessary, ARRA recipient will be contacted. (2-5 days)
4. If Cadmus determines the waiver request to be complete, Cadmus prepares technical assessment report for EPA. (3-5 days)
 - If technical assessment report (TAR) determines that available evidence does NOT support waiver request, then this information (TAR) is forwarded to the ARRA assistance recipient. ARRA assistance recipient may follow recommendations provided in the technical assessment report or decide to “appeal” the determination by providing additional documentation supporting their claim.
 - If technical assessment report determines that available evidence supports waiver request, then...
5. EPA Regional Office prepares a package for EPA HQ concurrence (5-10 days). Reviewed by EPA HQ Program Office, Office of General Counsel, Office of Grants and Debarment, Office of International Affairs, and by the Office of Administration and Resource Management.
6. Once EPA HQ concurrence is obtained, EPA Regional Office prepares approval package for EPA regional Administrator’s (RA) signature (3-5 days). The date the RA signs the waiver approval package is considered the effective or official approval date for the waiver.

7. EPA publishes Buy American waiver approval in the Federal Register (2 weeks).

If it is a complete submittal from the very beginning, then 4-5 weeks is a realistic time frame. If additional information needs to be gathered or there are extenuating circumstances, then 6-7 weeks is not out of the ordinary.