and/or met any other requirement, specified for the good in paragraph (e) of [102.21].'' Section 102.21(e)(1) provides in pertinent part:

The following rules will apply for purposes of determining the country of origin of a textile or apparel product under paragraph (c)(2) of this section:

6210–6212 (1) If the good consists of two or more component parts, a change to an assembled good of heading 6210 through 6212 from unassembled components, provided that the change is the result of the good being wholly assembled in a single country, territory, or insular possession.

The subject merchandise is classifiable in heading 6210, HTSUS. Section 102.21(b)(6) defines wholly assembled as: ''the term 'wholly assembled' when used with reference to a good means that all components, of which there must be at least two, preexisted in essentially the same condition as found in the finished good and were combined to form the finished good in a single country, territory, or insular possession. Minor attachments and minor embellishments (for example, appliques, beads, spangles, embroidery, buttons) not appreciably affecting the identity of the good, and minor subassemblies (for example, collars, cuffs, plackets, pockets), will not affect the status of a good as ''wholly assembled'' in a single country, territory, or insular possession.''

The surgical gowns at issue are assembled in both the Dominican Republic and the United States. Therefore, the surgical gowns are not ''wholly assembled in a single country, territory, or insular possession,'' and as a result, 19 CFR 102.21(c)(2) is inapplicable.

19 CFR 102.21(c)(3) states in pertinent part,

Where the country of origin of a textile or apparel product cannot be determined under paragraph (c)(1) or (2) of this section:

(i) If the good was knit to shape, the country of origin of the good is the single country, territory, or insular possession in which the good was knit;

(ii) Except for fabrics of chapter 59 and goods of heading 5609, 5807, 5811, 6213, 6214, 6301 through 6306, and 6308, and subheadings 6209.20.5040, 6307.10, 6307.90, and 9404.90, if the good was not knit to shape and the good was wholly assembled in a single country, territory, or insular possession, the country of origin of the good is the country, territory, or insular possession in which the good was wholly assembled.

As the subject surgical gowns are neither knit to shape, nor wholly assembled in a single country, section 102.21(c)(3) is inapplicable.

Section 102.21(c)(4) states, ''Where the country of origin of a textile or apparel product cannot be determined under paragraph (c)(1), (2) or (3) of this section, the country of origin of the good is the single country, territory or insular possession in which the most important assembly or manufacturing process occurred.''

GRI and Santé USA assert that the most important assembly or manufacturing process is the assembly of the sleeves to the main body piece of the gown in the United States. In support of their argument, they assert that the sleeves and the body are the essential components of the gown and provide the protective surfaces that are the purpose of the finished surgical gowns; attaching the sleeves to the main body of the gown gives the gown its finished shape; and attaching the sleeves to the main body of the gown requires a high degree of skill and is the most time consuming step in manufacturing the gowns. Moreover, GRI and Santé USA argue that 19 CFR 102.21(c)(4) only allows for a single assembly or manufacturing process to be the most important assembly or manufacturing process. We disagree.

The most important assembly or manufacturing processes of the surgical gowns consist of cutting the SMS textile material to make the main body and sleeve pieces, the assembly of the sleeves, the assembly of the gown body, and the application of the plastic film to the inner face of the gown body. All these steps combined create the main pieces of the surgical gown, *i.e.,* the sleeves and the body. They are the parts of the surgical gown that make the surgical gown a surgical gown. As a result, when the sleeve subassemblies and the surgical gown body are exported to the United States, they are clearly recognizable as an unfinished surgical gown. All that is left to do in the United States is to attach the sleeves to the gown and the neck binding to the neck opening of the gown to form the finished surgical gown.

In New York Ruling Letter (''NY'') K88449, dated August 17, 2004, CBP found that the most important assembly processes for a woman's knitted jacket in Version A were sewing the collar to the front of the jacket; assembling the sleeve parts; attaching the cuffs; sewing the side seams; sewing the pockets to the front panels; attaching the bottom band; and sewing the zipper and placket to the garment; all of which occurred in China. The final assembly processes of a woman's knitted jacket, such as attaching the rib knit collar to the back of the jacket and sewing the sleeves to the jacket, that occurred in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, were not determinative of the country of origin. Consequently, while GRI and Santé USA argue that attaching the sleeve subassemblies to the gown body subassembly requires a high degree of skill and time, we find that, in the aggregate, the cutting of the SMS textile material for the gown body subassembly and sleeve subassembly, the assembly of the sleeves, the assembly of the gown body, and applying the plastic film to the inner face of the gown body subassembly are the most important assembly or manufacturing processes in the production of the surgical gowns.

Moreover, CBP has a longstanding practice of interpreting 19 CFR 102.21(c)(4) to include more than one assembly or manufacturing process as the most important assembly or manufacturing process for purposes of a country of origin determination, as we have demonstrated above in NY K88449. *See also* Headquarters Ruling Letter (''HQ'') H308753, dated March 11, 2021; NY N308451, dated January 9, 2020; NY N302230, dated February 8, 2019; NY N174035, dated August 5, 2011; NY N091836, dated February 12, 2010; NY N026921, dated May 2, 2008; NY N033021, dated July 14, 2008; NY N019414, dated December 3, 2007; NY L81685, dated January 31, 2005; NY L87413, dated September 1, 2005; NY L81143, dated December 30, 2004; NY C85697, dated April 23, 1998; HQ 960991, dated December 9, 1997; HQ 960884, dated November 10, 1997; HQ 958668, dated May 15, 1996.

Therefore, we find, in accordance with 19 CFR 102.21(c)(4), the country of origin of the surgical gowns is the Dominican Republic.

Accordingly, the instant surgical gowns would be products of a foreign country or instrumentality designated pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 2511(b)(1). As to whether they qualify as ''U.S.-made end product,'' we encourage GRI and Santé USA to review the court decision in *Acetris Health, LLC* v. *United States,* 949 F.3d 719 (Fed. Cir. 2020), and to consult with the relevant government procuring agency.

Holding

Based on the facts and analysis set forth above, the country of origin of the surgical gowns at issue is the Dominican Republic.

GRI and Santé USA should consult with the relevant government procuring agency to determine whether the surgical gowns qualify as ''U.S.-made end products'' for purposes of the Federal Acquisition Regulation implementing the TAA.

Notice of this final determination will be given in the **Federal Register**, as required by 19 CFR 177.29. Any party-at-interest other than the party which requested this final determination may request, pursuant to 19 CFR 177.31, that CBP reexamine the matter anew and issue a new final determination. Pursuant to 19 CFR 177.30, any party-at-interest may, within 30 days of publication of the **Federal Register** Notice referenced above, seek judicial review of this final determination before the U.S. Court of International Trade.

Sincerely,

Alice A. Kipel, Executive Director

Regulations and Rulings Office of Trade

[FR Doc. 2022–16073 Filed 7–26–22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9111–14–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Federal Emergency Management Agency

[Docket ID FEMA–2020–0016]

Meetings To Implement Pandemic Response Voluntary Agreement Under Section 708 of the Defense Production Act

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION: Announcement of meetings.

SUMMARY: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is holding quarterly status meetings under each of the six Plans of Action, in the corresponding order listed below, to

implement the Voluntary Agreement for the Manufacture and Distribution of Critical Healthcare Resources Necessary to Respond to a Pandemic. They include: Plan of Action to Establish a National Strategy for the Manufacture, Allocation, and Distribution of Medical Gases to Respond to COVID–19; Plan of Action to Establish a National Strategy for the Manufacture, Allocation, and Distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to Respond to COVID–19; Plan of Action to Establish a National Strategy for the Manufacture, Allocation, and Distribution of Diagnostic Test Kits and other Testing Components to Respond to COVID–19; Plan of Action to Establish a National Strategy for the Manufacture, Allocation, and Distribution of Medical Devices to Respond to COVID–19; Plan of Action to Establish a National Strategy for the Coordination of National Multimodal Healthcare Supply Chains to Respond to COVID–19; Plan of Action to Establish a National Strategy for the Manufacture, Allocation, and Distribution of Drug Products, Drug Substances, and Associated Medical Devices to Respond to COVID–19.

DATES:

- Thursday, August 18, 2022, from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Eastern Time (ET).
- Thursday, September 15, 2022, from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. ET.
- Thursday, September 22, 2022, from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. ET.
- Thursday, October 6, 2022, from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. ET.
- Thursday, October 13, 2022, from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. ET.
- Thursday, October 20, 2022, from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. ET.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathy Hill, Office of Business, Industry, and Infrastructure Integration, via email at *OB3I@fema.dhs.gov* or via phone at (202) 212–1666.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice of these meetings is provided as required by section 708(h)(8) of the Defense Production Act (DPA), 50 U.S.C. 4558(h)(8), and consistent with 44 CFR part 332.

The DPA authorizes the making of ''voluntary agreements and plans of action'' with representatives of industry, business, and other interests to help provide for the national defense.[1] The President's authority to facilitate voluntary agreements with respect to responding to the spread of COVID–19 within the United States was delegated to the Secretary of Homeland Security in Executive Order 13911.[2] The Secretary of Homeland Security further delegated this authority to the FEMA Administrator.[3]

On August 17, 2020, after the appropriate consultations with the Attorney General and the Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, FEMA completed and published in the **Federal Register** a ''Voluntary Agreement, Manufacture and Distribution of Critical Healthcare Resources Necessary to Respond to a Pandemic'' (Voluntary Agreement).[4] Unless terminated earlier, the Voluntary Agreement is effective until August 17, 2025, and may be extended subject to additional approval by the Attorney General after consultation with the Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission. The Agreement may be used to prepare for or respond to any pandemic, including COVID–19, during that time.

On December 7, 2020, the first plan of action under the Voluntary Agreement—the Plan of Action to Establish a National Strategy for the Manufacture, Allocation, and Distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to Respond to COVID–19 (PPE Plan of Action)—was finalized.[5] The PPE Plan of Action established several sub-committees under the Voluntary Agreement, focusing on different aspects of the PPE Plan of Action.

On May 24, 2021, four additional plans of action under the Voluntary Agreement—the Plan of Action to Establish a National Strategy for the Manufacture, Allocation, and Distribution of Diagnostic Test Kits and other Testing Components to respond to COVID–19; the Plan of Action to Establish a National Strategy for the Manufacture, Allocation, and Distribution of Drug Products, Drug Substances, and Associated Medical Devices to respond to COVID–19; the Plan of Action to Establish a National Strategy for the Manufacture, Allocation, and Distribution of Medical Devices to respond to COVID–19; and the Plan of Action to Establish a National Strategy for the Manufacture, Allocation, and Distribution of Medical Gases to respond to COVID–19—were finalized.[6] These plans of action established several sub-committees under the Voluntary Agreement, focusing on different aspects of each plan of action.

On October 15, 2021, the sixth plan of action under the Voluntary Agreement—the Plan of Action to Establish a National Strategy for the Coordination of National Multimodal Healthcare Supply Chains to Respond to COVID–19—was finalized.[7] This Plan of Action established several sub-committees under the Voluntary Agreement, focusing on different transportation categories.

The meetings are chaired by the FEMA Administrator's delegates from the Office of Response and Recovery (ORR) and Office of Policy and Program Analysis (OPPA), attended by the Attorney General's delegates from the U.S. Department of Justice, and attended by the Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission's delegates. In implementing the Voluntary Agreement, FEMA adheres to all procedural requirements of 50 U.S.C. 4558 and 44 CFR part 332.

Meeting Objectives: The objectives of the meetings are as follows:

1. Convene the Requirements Sub-Committees under each of the six Plans of Action to establish priorities related to the COVID–19 response under the Voluntary Agreement.
2. Gather Requirements Sub-Committee Participants and Attendees to ask targeted questions for situational awareness.
3. Identify pandemic-related information gaps and areas that merit sharing by holding these regular quarterly meetings of the Requirements Sub-Committees with key stakeholders.
4. Identify potential Objectives and Actions that should be completed under the Requirements Sub-Committees.

Meetings Closed to the Public: By default, the DPA requires meetings held to implement a voluntary agreement or plan of action be open to the public.[8] However, attendance may be limited if the Sponsor[9] of the Voluntary Agreement finds that the matter to be discussed at a meeting falls within the purview of matters described in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c), such as trade secrets and commercial or financial information.

[1] 50 U.S.C. 4558(c)(1).

[2] 85 FR 18403 (Apr. 1, 2020).

[3] DHS Delegation 09052, Rev. 00.1 (Apr. 1, 2020); DHS Delegation Number 09052 Rev. 00 (Jan. 3, 2017).

[4] 85 FR 50035 (Aug. 17, 2020). The Attorney General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, made the required finding that the purpose of the voluntary agreement may not reasonably be achieved through an agreement having less anticompetitive effects or without any voluntary agreement and published the finding in the **Federal Register** on the same day. 85 FR 50049 (Aug. 17, 2020).

[5] *See* 85 FR 78869 (Dec. 7, 2020). *See also* 85 FR 79020 (Dec. 8, 2020).

[6] *See* 86 FR 27894 (May 24, 2021). *See also* 86 FR 28851 (May 28, 2021).

[7] *See* 86 FR 57444 (Oct. 15, 2021). *See also* 87 FR 6880 (Feb. 7, 2022).

[8] *See* 50 U.S.C. 4558(h)(7).

[9] ''[T]he individual designated by the President in subsection (c)(2) [of section 708 of the DPA] to administer the voluntary agreement, or plan of action.'' 50 U.S.C. 4558(h)(7).

The Sponsor of the Voluntary Agreement for the Manufacture and Distribution of Critical Healthcare Resources Necessary to Respond to a Pandemic, the FEMA Administrator, found that these meetings to implement the Voluntary Agreement involve matters which fall within the purview of matters described in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c) and the meetings are therefore closed to the public.

Specifically, these meetings may require participants to disclose trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential. Disclosure of such information allows for meetings to be closed to the public pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4).

The success of the Voluntary Agreement depends wholly on the willing participation of the private sector participants. Failure to close these meetings to the public could reduce active participation by the signatories due to a perceived risk that sensitive company information could be released to the public. A public disclosure of a private sector participant's information executed prematurely could reduce trust and support for the Voluntary Agreement. A resulting loss of support by the participants for the Voluntary Agreement would significantly hinder the implementation of the Agency's objectives. Thus, these meeting closures are permitted pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(B).

Deanne Criswell,

Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

[FR Doc. 2022–16108 Filed 7–26–22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9111–19–P.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[Docket No. FWS–HQ–IA–2022–0065; FXIA16710900000–223–FF09A30000]

Foreign Endangered Species; Receipt of Permit Applications

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of permit applications; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on applications to conduct certain activities with foreign species that are listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). With some exceptions, the ESA prohibits activities with listed species unless Federal authorization is issued that allows such activities. The ESA also requires that we invite public comment before issuing permits for any activity otherwise prohibited by the ESA with respect to any endangered species.

DATES: We must receive comments by August 26, 2022.

ADDRESSES: *Obtaining Documents:* The applications, application supporting materials, and any comments and other materials that we receive will be available for public inspection at *https://www.regulations.gov* in Docket No. FWS–HQ–IA–2022–0065.

Submitting Comments: When submitting comments, please specify the name of the applicant and the permit number at the beginning of your comment. You may submit comments by one of the following methods:

- *Internet: https://www.regulations.gov.* Search for and submit comments on Docket No. FWS–HQ–IA–2022–0065.
- *U.S. mail:* Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS–HQ–IA–2022–0065; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters, MS: PRB/3W; 5275 Leesburg Pike; Falls Church, VA 22041–3803.

For more information, see Public Comment Procedures under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brenda Tapia, by phone at 703–358–2185 or via email at *DMAFR@fws.gov.* Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Public Comment Procedures

A. How do I comment on submitted applications?

We invite the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies to comment on these applications. Before issuing any of the requested permits, we will take into consideration any information that we receive during the public comment period.

You may submit your comments and materials by one of the methods in **ADDRESSES**. We will not consider comments sent by email or fax, or to an address not in **ADDRESSES**. We will not consider or include in our administrative record comments we receive after the close of the comment period (see **DATES**).

When submitting comments, please specify the name of the applicant and the permit number at the beginning of your comment. Provide sufficient information to allow us to authenticate any scientific or commercial data you include. The comments and recommendations that will be most useful and likely to influence agency decisions are: (1) Those supported by quantitative information or studies; and (2) those that include citations to, and analyses of, the applicable laws and regulations.

B. May I review comments submitted by others?

You may view and comment on others' public comments at *https://www.regulations.gov,* unless our allowing so would violate the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) or Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

C. Who will see my comments?

If you submit a comment at *https://www.regulations.gov,* your entire comment, including any personal identifying information, will be posted on the website. If you submit a hardcopy comment that includes personal identifying information, such as your address, phone number, or email address, you may request at the top of your document that we withhold this information from public review. However, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Moreover, all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public disclosure in their entirety.

II. Background

To help us carry out our conservation responsibilities for affected species, and in consideration of section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), we invite public comments on permit applications before final action is taken. With some exceptions, the ESA prohibits certain activities with listed species unless Federal authorization is issued that allows such activities. Permits issued under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA allow otherwise prohibited activities for scientific purposes or to enhance the propagation or survival of the affected species. Service regulations regarding prohibited activities with endangered species, captive-bred wildlife registrations, and permits for any activity otherwise prohibited by the ESA with respect to any endangered