

Wire Rope Identification

Domestic & Imported Wire Rope

In the world marketplace, opportunities abound for both import and export. Freedom of choice is one of the greatest benefits of this world economy; consumers have the ability to select from a wide array of products manufactured in the United States and overseas.

However, when the choice is determined by the *supplier* and not the consumer, the very idea of a world economy is undermined. **Unauthorized substitution is unethical. Unmarked substitution is illegal.**

As a manufacturer, Wirerope Works, Inc. (WW) acknowledges the presence of imported wire rope, but believes the consumer not only be given the opportunity to make the choice between an imported or domestic product, but also ensured that the consumer's choice will be honored by the supplier.

Domestic Wire Rope

Wire rope manufactured in the United States normally has some type of colored marker to identify its manufacturer. Two types of markers may be used -- strand markers and core markers.

Strand Markers. A strand marker can be seen by looking at the wire rope; it is simply a colored lubricant applied externally to one strand during manufacturing. Strand markers are *not* used in mining rope, elevator rope, galvanized rope, compacted rope or any rope that is post-lubricated. Strand markers are used in the manufacture of all standard (round) wire ropes but are not a confirmation of the manufacturer in and of itself.

Core Markers. Core markers are used in most of the wire rope manufactured in the United States, but cannot be seen unless the wire

rope is disassembled. Manufacturers add colored threads or filaments to fiber and steel (independent wire rope core [IWRC]) cores.

Every Bethlehem Wire Rope® contains one or both types of markers. WW uses a purple strand in the manufacture of all standard EIP and EEIP Bethlehem Wire Rope, excluding those ropes cited previously. Every Bethlehem Wire Rope contains two filaments in the core (either fiber or steel): one yellow and one purple filament.

Imported Wire Rope

Imported wire rope is difficult to detect without dismantling the wire rope, and even then there is no clear way to determine if the wire rope is imported. While the lack of core marker may be an indication that the rope was not manufactured in the U.S., several overseas manufacturers use core markers. In addition, it is possible that the manufacturer's filaments broke during manufacturing, resulting in several feet which appear to be unmarked.

However, the foreign country of origin of imported wire rope must be conspicuously shown all the way to the ultimate customer.

Federal Law States...

(1) The U.S. Customs Service requires that reels or other "containers" for imported wire rope be conspicuously marked to indicate the foreign Country of Origin.

(2) The U.S. Customs Service requires that if imported wire rope is repackaged after clearing Customs and then offered for resale, the new container must conspicuously state the foreign Country of Origin of the imported wire rope.

(3) The U.S. Customs Service requires that when fittings or loops are put on imported wire rope in the

U.S., and the articles are then offered for sale, the articles or their containers must be marked to identify the foreign Country of Origin of the imported wire rope.

(4) The U.S. Customs Service marking requirements apply equally to importers and to repackagers/resellers of the imported rope.

When imported wire rope enters the United States, its container must conspicuously state the name of the foreign country in which the wire rope was produced. The "container" for the wire rope may be a reel or shipping cart, or the straps by which a coil is secured.

This law is intended to provide U.S. consumers with information to choose between domestic and foreign products. If imported wire rope is removed from properly marked reels or other containers and placed on different reels or into other containers not marked with the foreign Country of Origin, and then offered for sale, the Customs marking laws have been violated. This is true regardless of whether the importer or a subsequent reseller performs the repackaging.

The Customs Service has ruled that even when fittings or loops are put on imported wire rope in the United States, and these slings or other fabricated articles are then offered for sale, the articles must be marked so as to identify the foreign Country of Origin of the imported wire rope. This ruling applies to both importers and resellers that fabricate wire rope articles such as slings.

Enforcement

At the time of entry, importers must certify in writing that they will abide by the marking requirements.



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Importers must declare that they will retain the proper Country of Origin marking even if they repackage the wire rope. Importers must also certify that if the wire rope is sold to a reseller, they will notify that reseller in writing of the marking requirements. The importers' required notice to the reseller reads:

These articles are imported.

The requirements (of the law) provide that the articles or their containers must be marked in a conspicuous place as legibly, indelibly and permanently as the nature of the article or container will permit, in such a manner as to indicate to an ultimate purchaser in the United States the [English name of the Country of Origin] origin of the article.

The Country of Origin marking law applies to all who market imported wire rope in the United States. Every citizen is encouraged to report to the Customs Service any infraction of these laws. Violations which should be reported include activities such as hiding or defacing the Country of Origin marking on a container, respooling the rope on a new container not properly marked, or performing minor fabrication on the rope, such as adding a fitting or a loop, and then failing to mark the container with the foreign Country of Origin of the imported wire rope. In order to assist Customs in investigating the charges, reports should contain as much information as possible, including names and addresses of

those involved, dates and a description of the violation. It is also helpful to provide photographs, field reports and similar records whenever possible.

The U.S. Customs Service will investigate; the U.S. Government will prosecute. Contact your local Customs office or the main office listed below for further information on reporting a violation.

U.S. Customs Service
Department of the Treasury
1301 Constitution Avenue
Washington, DC 20229
202/566-8681



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