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# Small Businesses Should Know Tariff Facts

# By Peter J. Cazamias

Recently, the United States Government announced several new tariff increases. The US Department of Commerce implemented tariffs on steel and aluminum imports for national security reasons. Separately, the US Trade Representative (USTR) announced tariffs to combat unfair trade practices on certain Chinese goods. Additional tariffs on a larger list of goods from China are expected in the future.

Small businesses should become familiar with what imported products are impacted to make informed business decisions, as tariffs could increase the total cost of certain imported goods.

### What are tariffs?

Tariffs are taxes, levies, or duties on a particular category of imports. These fees are charged as a percentage of the price of an imported good paid for by a US buyer. These charges are collected by US Custom and Border Protection agents at all US ports of entry.

How do I get a tariff waiver on foreign purchases?

US businesses may request that individual imported products be excluded from the new tariff charges; and US producers may also comment on why certain exclusions should be denied. The Department of Commerce and the US Trade Representative (USTR) have separate application procedures based on the actions taken by their organizations. Decisions are case by case and require separate individual applications for each item to be imported.

## Where can I find out more information?

The US Small Business Administration directs small businesses to visit the following US Government resources for more information, to receive answers to frequently asked questions, and to request a tariff exclusion on imported products.

## Goods from China with new additional tariffs

The list of certain Chinese goods with new additional tariffs now in force can be found at the Federal Register under 83 FR 28710. USTR implemented a process by which US stakeholders



may request that imported products be excluded from these newly implemented duties on Chinese goods. USTR will evaluate each request on a caseby-case basis. USTR has published on USTR.gov a request form template, Q&A, instructions on how

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Note : All NYS Empire State Development certified MWBE/SDVOB vendors are already registered with LLTJV. Please contact us if your firm is not currently receiving LLTJV Notices of Interest by sending a note to: LLTJV@moderntimesinc.com

### Get or Update Your Empire State Development MWBE & SDVOB Certificate: LLTJV seeks Empire State Development certified firms for every 1st Tier Subcontract Opportunity.

Seeking to be certified or re-certified? Visit https://esd.ny.gov/mwbe-new-certification to learn more about eligibility, requirements, and how to get started. Have a question about certification? Call the Empire State Development MWBE Hotline: (212) 803-2414

To get in touch, please contact: LLTJV@MODERNTIMESINC.COM



SKANSKA CIVIL NORTHEAST IS SOLICITING COST PROPOSALS FROM DBE, M/WBE, AND SDVOB SUBCONTRACTORS AND VENDORS

Flood Mitigation at Three Bus Depots in the Boroughs of Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Staten Island MTA NYCT Contract No. B-62032 (DBE) Bid Date: October 4, 2018

Installation of Three Elevators at 59th Street Station MTA NYCT Contract No. A-37124 (DBE) Bid Date: September 21, 2018

DB Ventilation System Rehabilitation and Fixed Fire Suppression System Prototype at the Hugh L. Carey Tunnel MTA Bridges and Tunnels Contract No. HC-07 (M/WBE, SDVOB) Bid Date: September 12, 2018

B-62032, Flood Mitigation at Three Bus Depots in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Staten Island (DBE) The scope of work for this project includes providing flood protection walls, stop logs, flood barrier/panels, replacing manhole covers, sump pumps, and other flood mitigation resiliency measures at three (3) bus depots (MJ Quill, Casey Stengel, and Castleton) in the Boroughs of Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island. Many bidding opportunities available: flood doors, stop logs, louver covers, concrete repair, trench drains, french drain, drainage, penetration sealant, manhole covers, check valve, gate valve, plumbing, masonry, steel H-piles, piles, precast concrete panel, masonry, demolition, crack and spall repair, asbestos removal, sidewalk construction/repair, MPT material, electrical work.

# A-37124, Installation of Three Elevators at 59th Street Station (DBE)

Installation of three elevators; expand full-time control area on north and south side of existing mezzanine; reconfigure stairs, ramps, and public facilities. Many bidding opportunities available: electrician, elevator sub, plumber, HVAC sub, steel fabrication, miscellaneous metals fabrication, utility relocation sub, architectural finishes, curbs and sidewalks, demolition.

# HC-07, DB Ventilation System Rehabilitation (M/WBE, SDVOB)

The work to be performed under this contract includes: complete design and construction services at the Brooklyn Ventilation (BVB), Governors Island Ventilation (GIVB), Manhattan Blower (MBB), and Manhattan Underground Exhaust Buildings (MUEB), inclusive of construction quality control and quality assurance for the following: furnish and install high efficiency supply and exhaust fan motors with associated drive assemblies; furnish and install removable stainless steel partitions; relocate actuators, electrical demolition, and equipment replacements and relocations; replacement of inboard and outboard fan supports; testing and commissioning of all new and modified equipment and systems; and design, furnish, install, test, and commission fixed fire suppression system (FFSS)-Water Mist Prototype through zones EE4, EE5, and WE5 of the Hugh L. Carey Tunnel (HLCT). Many bidding opportunities available: mechanical-fan work, motor installation, fire suppression, water main, civil-equipment pads, maintenance and protection of traffic, and electrical.

If you are interested in bidding on these projects, please contact Skanska's Outreach Coordinator: Julia.Omanoff@skanska.com • EOE/M/F/Vet/Disabled



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PATH Flood Protection for Exchange Place and Newport Station Head House PANYNJ Contract No. PAT-784.169 (DBE) Bid Date: September 21, 2018

Construction of a New Brooklyn Community District 3 Garage DSNY Contract No. S186/224 (M/WBE) Bid Date: September 27, 2018

PAT-784.169, PATH Flood Protection for Exchange Place and Newport Station Head House (NY/NJ DBE: 23%)

Description of project: The work generally relates to performing installation of flood protection, including furnishing and installing an integrated aluminum and glass flood-resistant system, concrete walls, and deployable flood barrier, and related work at Exchange Place and Newport PATH Stations in Jersey City, New Jersey.

# S186/224, Construction of a New Brooklyn Community District 3 Garage (NYC M/WBE: 40.8%)

Description of project: The scope of work consists of the construction of a new LEED® Silver Certified garage facility, comprising one (1) level of vehicle storage and repair facilities, with three (3) levels of personnel support facilities serving Brooklyn Sanitation District Brooklyn 3. Below grade parking is provided for personnel. This facility shall be constructed on a pile foundation and have a steel frame structure. Exterior walls are of cast-in-place concrete, precast concrete panels, curtain wall, and aluminum solar shading devices. The project site is located at Nostrand Avenue and Park Avenue in Brooklyn and includes related site work and interior building finishes.



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