

WHAT IS AN ASSIST?

An assist is anything that is provided to a manufacturer at a free or reduced cost to replace something the manufacturer would have had to purchase anyway.

Example:

- *A dress made in Korea for a doll made in China*
- *US Fabric used to make a back pack from Indonesia*
- *Tools, dies, molds, etc.*
- *Consumable goods used in manufacture: wood, fuel, glue, etc.*
- *Engineering, design work, art work, plans, sketches that are produced outside of USA and are not public domain.*

The value (production or acquisition cost) of the assist (new) or the depreciated value (used) **plus transportation costs**, must be added to the value of the item being imported.

Value + Transportation = Assist

Importers *must give assist information* to their customs brokers so entries are made correctly. This shows reasonable care and due diligence to U.S. Customs.

Customs regulation for ASSISTS: [CFR 152.103](#)

(d) *Assist. If the value of an assist is to be added to the price actually paid or payable, or to be used as a component of computed value, the port director shall determine the value of the assist and apportion that value to the price of the imported merchandise in the following manner:*

(1) *If the assists consist of materials, components, parts, or similar items incorporated in the imported merchandise, or items consumed in the production of the imported merchandise, acquired by the buyer from an unrelated seller, the value of the assist is the cost of its acquisition. If the assists were produced by the buyer or a person related to the buyer, its value would be the cost of its production. In either case, the value of the assist would include transportation costs to the place of production.*

(2) *If the assist consists of tools, dies, molds, or similar items used in the production of the imported merchandise, acquired by the buyer from an unrelated seller, the value of the assist is the cost of its acquisition. If the assist were produced by the buyer or a person related to the buyer, its value would be cost of its production. If the assist has been used previously by the buyer, regardless of whether it had been acquired or produced by him, the original cost of acquisition or production would be adjusted downward to reflect its use before its value could be determined. If the assist were leased by the buyer from an unrelated seller, the value of the assist would be the cost of the lease. In either case, the value of the assist would include transportation costs to the place of production. Repairs or modifications to an assist may increase its value.*

WHAT IS AN **ASSIST**?

Example 1:

A U.S. importer supplied detailed designs to the foreign producer. These designs were necessary to manufacture the merchandise. The U.S. importer bought the designs from an engineering company in the U.S. for submission to his foreign supplier.

Should the appraised value of the merchandise include the value of the assist?

No: Design work undertaken in the U.S. may not be added to the price actually paid or payable.

Example 2:

A U.S. importer supplied molds free of charge to the foreign shipper. The molds were necessary to manufacture merchandise for the U.S. importer. The U.S. importer had some of the molds manufactured by a U.S. company and others manufactured in a third country.

Should the appraised value of the merchandise include the value of the molds?

YES: It is an addition required to be made to transaction value.

The above information is an overview only and does not ensure an importer's compliance with U.S. Law.

→ **Failure to accurately report *assists* may result in *added taxes and fines*.**

If you have any concerns or questions and would like more information please contact LSIdaho at: