

Thailand, 3 parts from China, and 24 parts from other countries) and eight subassemblies, each of which was also assembled in Japan. Further, the scanner unit (one of the eight subassemblies) which was assembled in Japan was characterized as "the heart of the machine." See also HRL 561568, dated March 22, 2001, 66 FR 17222.

In HRL 560433, dated September 19, 1997, Customs held that the assembly in the United Kingdom of audio/video stereo receivers from 16 subassemblies and other components originating from various countries resulted in a substantial transformation. Customs noted in that ruling that numerous skilled workers assembled the stereo receivers from numerous components and hundreds of raw materials. In HRL 734045, dated October 8, 1991, Customs held that foreign subassemblies and other components imported into Hong Kong which were processed and assembled with other Hong Kong components to make laptop and notebook personal computers were substantially transformed as a result of the Hong Kong operations.

In HRL 558919, dated March 20, 1995, Customs held that an extruder subassembly manufactured in England was substantially transformed in the United States when it was wired and combined with U.S. components (motor, electrical controls and extruder screw) to create a vertical extruder. In HRL 559887, dated October 3, 1996, Customs held that swivel joints and torsion spring balance assemblies from India were substantially transformed when assembled in the U.S. with

U.S.-origin components to produce top and bottom loading/unloading arms (petroleum handling equipment). Therefore, the loading arms were considered products of the United States. Customs recently ruled in HRL 562502, dated November 8, 2002, that a Chinese-origin transfer feeder unit and Chinese-origin outer covers were substantially transformed when assembled in Japan with a Japanese-origin laser scanner unit to produce a printer engine. "When taken together, the manufacture of the laser scanner unit and the final assembly of the printer engine is complex and meaningful." Therefore, for procurement purposes, the printer engines were considered to be products of Japan.

In this case, the complex assembly of the central block from three subassemblies, including the incorporation of three motors from the drive frame subassembly into the central block, combined with the subsequent assembly of the central block, six-pack, ball accelerator, and U.S.-origin electrical controller assembly and the installation of the pinsetters in bowling facilities in the United States, when taken together, result in a substantial transformation of the foreign-origin subassemblies involved. The processing in the United States requires precise calibration and involves the assembly of numerous parts and subassemblies and highly skilled labor. The name, character and use of the foreign-origin subassemblies and parts change as a result of the processing and other assembly operations performed in the United States. Therefore, pursuant to 19

U.S.C. 2518(4)(B), and 19 CFR 177.22(a), we find that the country of origin of the bowling pinsetters is the United States.

Holding

Based on the facts presented, the components imported into the United States that are used in the manufacture of the bowling pinsetters involved in this case are substantially transformed in the United States. Accordingly, pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 2518(4)(B), and 19 CFR 177.22(a), the country of origin of the bowling pinsetters is the United States.

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 Customs reexamine the matter anew and issue a new final determination.

Any party-at-interest may, within 30 days after publication of the **Federal Register** notice referenced above, seek judicial review of this final determination before the Court of International Trade.

Sincerely,

Michael T. Schmitz,

Assistant Commissioner, Office of Regulations & Rulings.

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