



Alaska Railroad Corporation
327 W. Ship Creek Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99501

February 23, 2023

Addendum 1
ITB #23-10-312212
Mainline Hardwood Ties

Addendum number 1 has been issued for questions.

The Closing Date for this ITB has not changed.
Bids will be received until March 2, 2023 @ 3:00 PM Alaska time.

Questions:

Mill of Manufacture Certification – ARRC requires a mill certification indicating that inspections have been performed and that the product is in conformance with the specifications. Can you please provide clarification on what you are requiring and looking for regarding mill certification? Is “mill” referring to the saw mill where they are being procured in the field or the plant at which they are received for treatment?

Answer: The initial inspection at the saw mill meeting specifications and identifying species of wood.

Treatment - The preservative shall consist of a mixture of 50 percent by volume of creosote oil and 50 percent by volume of residuum oil; a 50/50 coal tar solution may also be used. Would Creosote Petroleum Solution be accepted? Koppers offers CPS treatment; This material meets AWWA specification for P2 and P1/13 creosote; P4 Standard for Petroleum Oil for Blending with Creosote.

Answer: No - The preservative presented in the solicitation is what will be accepted.

Inspection - The Alaska Railroad Corporation (or its designee) will inspect 100% of the ties produced under any contract resulting from this solicitation. Where will inspection take place? Does this refer to inspection at the treatment plant or upon delivery? If inspection takes place at the plant, when will it occur? Before or after treatment? During packaging? Etc.

Answer: The inspection will be at the treatment plant, after treatment.

Species - All ties shall be hardwood. Acceptable species are: Red Oak, White Oak and Hickory. Other species will require approval by ARRC Chief Engineer prior to acceptance. Would mixed hardwood be acceptable for species extending beyond just hickory? Accepting Oak and various MHW species will help the supply for raw material being procured in the lumber market for the duration of this project.

Answer: *No Gum species will be allowed.*

Packaging - 7" x 9" x 8'6" ties are to be bundled in four (4) wide, and by four (4) tall bundles (16 ties per bundle). Would 20 pc bundles and/or 25 pc bundles be acceptable? This would help with efficiency in the loading process as well as maximize centerbeam capacity for ties. It will also help the supply and type of centerbeam being used to its capacity. Example: 25 pcs bundles for BNSF CBs or 20 pcs bundles for leased CBs to fill capacity.

Answer: *Bundling as explained in solicitation will need to be followed for transportation requirements on the barge.*

Packaging - Bundles are to be secured by two bands of 1 1/4" x 0.044 high strength or stronger steel banding applied one each 12" from each end. Bands must be tight and double clamped. Would Cordstrap banding be accepted as an alternative to steel banding? CordStrap meets AAR spec for its tensile strength.

Answer: *Yes the cordstrap banding would be acceptable.*

Saw Kerf - A saw kerf is required on the side of the tie that bore holes are drilled from, which shall be opposite the heart wood. Kerf shall be 1/16" wide and made so it does not hold water. Would you allow for kerfing to be 1/8" wide? This allows for more tolerance.

Answer: *Yes – 1/8" wide would be accepted.*

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.
If there are any questions regarding this addendum please let me know.

Thank you,


Rob Walker
Logistics Manager
Alaska Railroad Corporation