



Flag Facts & Fancies

Made In The USA: What Does It Mean?

(NAPSA)—Traditionally, Independence Day is one of the top occasions for displays of patriotism (along with Memorial Day, Flag Day and Veterans Day), and perhaps the most common means of promoting national pride is with an American flag.

What a number of people may not realize, however, is that many of these red-white-and-blue banners aren't quite as all-American as consumers think—even if they're labeled as being "Made in the USA." The only true requirement for a product to say it is made in the USA is that the *majority* of it be made or put together here in America.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), on the other hand, requires that its flags—which are used as part of internment ceremonies, and are presented to a veteran's surviving family members—be 100 percent American-made. Every part of a flag given to honor a veteran's life is made in the United States, from the first stitch to the last.

Allied Materials & Equipment Company, Inc., which has been making flags for the VA since 2000, was so impressed by the high quality of fabric that is 100 percent American-made, they developed a line of patriotic products for consumer purchase. These include bags and aprons—terrific



With a stars-and-stripes, barbecue apron, you can show your patriotic colors this July 4th.

for a celebratory costume—and are just right for a Fourth of July barbecue, or for baking an all-American apple pie.

The company also makes 3' x 5' nylon flags for the House of Representatives. The flags have embroidered star fields, double-stitched seams on the striping and exceptional craftsmanship. Like Allied's other stars-and-stripes products, are 100 percent American-made.

So, if you wish to display your true colors this holiday season, be sure that your grand old flag is *really* American—and may that star-spangled banner yet wave.

To learn more about the manufacturing process, or to order American flags or other patriotic products mentioned in this article, visit www.alliedflag.com.