

Commerce Department Establishes Microelectronics Early Alert System For COVID-Related Supply Chain Disruptions

On October 4, 2021, the U.S. Department of Commerce (“Commerce”) announced the establishment of the Microelectronics Early Alert System. According to a [press release](#), this action “will help the interagency Supply Chain Disruption Task Force to coordinate U.S. government resources to help resolve supply chain bottlenecks occurring due to the global chip shortage.” In line with recommendations outlined in the [100-Day Supply Chain Review Report](#), the Supply Chain Disruption Task Force – led by the Secretaries of Commerce, Transportation, and Agriculture – will use the information gathered to address near-term supply/demand mismatches. Commerce Secretary Gina M. Raimondo stated that strengthening supply chains requires the task force “to hear directly from impacted businesses when they are experiencing a COVID-related semiconductor supply chain disruption.” Unlike the agency’s licensed-based [industry import monitoring programs](#), the early alert system will rely on information about COVID-related shutdowns or supply chain disruptions that is voluntarily shared by affected stakeholders. Affected entities may submit information (including confidential business information that is protected from disclosure to the public) via email to Commerce’s International Trade Administration (covid_microelectronics_alert@trade.gov).