

U.S. Export Controls Against China

On October 7, 2022 the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) unveiled a set of regulations aimed at updating export controls on advanced computing semiconductors, semiconductor manufacturing equipment, and related items. These rules also expanded restrictions on arms embargoed countries, including China, and added further Chinese Entities to the Entity List.¹ These regulations were most recently updated on April 11, 2024.²

In August 2023, President Biden invoked the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) and the National Emergencies Act (NEA), to declare a national emergency due to countries of concern's comprehensive strategies advancing critical technologies for military purposes. President Biden directed the Secretary of the Treasury to issue regulations requiring notification of certain transactions involving foreign entities and prohibiting others, aiming to curb the advancement of sensitive technologies by these countries. The order outlines duties for the Secretary of the Treasury, including communication with Congress, consultations with relevant departments, and the development of a program to annually review and assess the effectiveness of these regulations.³

Following President Biden's summit with President Xi Jinping, in November 2023, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo met with Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao to discuss the U.S.-China

commercial relationship, emphasizing progress under the commercial issues working group and plans for technical discussions on trade secrets protection. Secretary Raimondo also highlighted collaboration with China on people-to-people ties through the U.S.-China Tourism Leadership Summit, while reaffirming the non-negotiable stance on national security and the targeted nature of U.S. export controls.⁴

The House Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, led by bipartisan efforts under Chairman Mike Gallagher and Ranking Member Raja Krishnamoorthi, has proposed nearly 150 policy recommendations aimed at resetting the economic and technological competition with China. These recommendations reflect a bipartisan consensus on the need to overhaul the current economic relationship with China to safeguard U.S. interests, prevent support for Chinese military advancements and human rights violations, and foster economic resilience in collaboration with allies. The Committee's year long investigation into China's economic and technological strategies has led to the formulation of three key pillars guiding these recommendations and the future direction of US policy towards China: reset, prevent, build.⁵