



Office of the
Assistant Secretary
for Administration

July 28, 2025

Office of
Contracting and
Procurement

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Washington, DC
20250-9308

TO: All Agencies and Staff Offices using or acquiring 3D Printers

FROM: Hilary Erickson **HILARY ERICKSON**
Acting Director, Office of Contracting and Procurement (OCP)

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Acting Director, Office of Homeland Security (OHS)

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SUBJECT: Restriction on Purchase of 3D Printers Made in China

1. Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform all USDA employees of the new restrictions on the procurement and/or use of low-cost 3D printers manufactured in China, based on recent supply chain risk assessments.

2. Background

On June 18, 2025, GSA issued a memorandum titled "Supply Chain Risk Information - Memorandum - Risk from Low-Cost 3D Printers," authored by Kelley Artz, the Supply Chain Risk Management Technical Lead at the Federal Acquisition Service (FAS). The memorandum highlighted significant national security risks associated with low-cost 3D printers predominantly manufactured by Chinese companies. These devices are priced under \$2,500 and dominate the global market.

3. Key Risks Identified

The memorandum outlined several key risks associated with the use of low-cost 3D printers made by Chinese manufacturers:

- The dominant presence of Chinese companies in the low-cost 3D printer market raises concerns about data security and intellectual property protection.

- These 3D printers have been known to transmit printing data, including print history, diagnostics, and potentially user profiles, back to China.
- U.S. intelligence agencies have warned that China's exploitation of consumer devices poses risks of data theft and infrastructure security.

4. Directive

Effective immediately, the following measures are to be implemented:

- USDA Secretary's Memo [SM 1078-014](#) titled "AMERICA FIRST MEMORANDUM FOR USDA ARRANGEMENTS AND RESEARCH SECURITY" prohibits contracting with, entering into arrangement with, or otherwise providing material or non-material benefit through the provision of funded or unfunded work to any foreign person or entity or any U.S. citizen or entity subject to foreign ownership, control, or influence by a country of concern or other foreign adversary unless appealed to and approved by the Secretary of Agriculture.
- Pursuant to SM 1078-014, all USDA employees are strictly prohibited from using the Government Purchase Card (GPC), contracts awarded using the Integrated Acquisition System (IAS) or other procurement system, Interagency Agreements, or any Federal Financial Assistance as defined at 45 CFR 78.1, Grant/Agreement as defined at 2 CFR 200.1, interagency agreements, or any other non-assistance instrument (e.g., mutual interest agreements, material transfer agreements, etc.) to acquire any low-cost 3D printers manufactured by the following Chinese companies:
 - Bambu Lab (China)
 - Creality 3D (China)
 - Anycubic (China)
 - Elegoo (China)
 - Flashforge (China)
 - Piccreat (China)
 - Shining 3D (China)
- In further alignment with SM 1078-014, Mission Areas and Offices that currently utilize 3D printers are instructed to immediately review their inventory/manufacturers; use of 3D printers from the above companies should be immediately discontinued, and alternative sources selected.
- Mission Areas and Offices, in coordination with OCIO, should conduct any remediation necessary to mitigate potential risks of data transmission if possible – e.g., removing device connectivity.

- Mission Areas and Offices, where legally permitted, must notify USDA grantees of this potential security risk and recommend alternatives.
- Mission Areas and Offices are responsible for ensuring that if their grantees are utilizing 3D printers that USDA funding does not contribute, in whole or in part, to their purchase or continued utilization.
- USDA employees seeking to contract for or otherwise acquire services, goods, or equipment, are encouraged to think critically about their compliance with the letter and intent of SM 1078-014. If you are making a decision that may exposure USDA and the American taxpayer to prohibited activity, seek clarification and guidance from your immediate supervisor who can escalate the concern accordingly.

Alternative 3D printer solutions should be sourced from manufacturers with a lower risk profile. Notable non-Chinese manufacturers include:

- Prusa Research (Czech Republic)
- Phrozen (Taiwan)
- UltiMaker (US-Netherlands)

By implementing these measures, we aim to mitigate the risks associated with the use of low-cost 3D printers manufactured by Chinese companies. Our commitment to maintaining the security and integrity of our supply chain remains paramount. Agencies and Offices are expected to comply with this directive and ensure that all future acquisitions/procurements align with the outlined guidelines.

5. Applicability

This memorandum applies to procurements, regardless of dollar value, that are:

- (1) Awarded, or expected to be awarded, on or after 7/28/25; and
- (2) Where USDA is the contracting activity; and

6. Effective Date

This memorandum is effective immediately and remains in effect until rescinded.

7. Points of Contacts

Questions regarding this class deviation may be directed to the Procurement Policy Division at procurement.policy@usda.gov.