

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY
MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

CHARTER

1. Committee's Official Designation (Title). Materials and Equipment Technical Advisory Committee (METAC or Committee).

2. Authority. This charter is hereby renewed and revised, consistent with Section 1754 and 1768 of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (ECRA) (50 U.S.C §§ 4801-4852), the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) (15 C.F.R. Parts 730-774), and the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (FACA), (5 U.S.C. App.). The Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS), made the following determinations necessary for the establishment of the work of this Committee:

- a. Representatives of a substantial segment of the materials and materials processing equipment industry have requested the appointment of this technical advisory committee.
- b. Articles, materials, supplies, and equipment in the materials area that may contribute to the development of nuclear, missile, chemical, and biological weapons, including technology and other information, are difficult to evaluate because of questions concerning technical matters, worldwide availability, actual use of the products and technology, and licensing procedures.

Consistent with Section 14 of the FACA, the Committee has recommended that the charter be renewed. The Committee was initially chartered in 2019¹ under the authority of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (EAA), as amended (50 U.S.C. 4601 *et seq.*). The Committee has advised the Department under renewed charters since that time, consistent with the authorities set forth in the EAA and the EAR.²

¹ This committee was renamed in 2019 as the Materials and Equipment Technical Advisory Committee (combined charters previously known as the Materials Technical Advisory Committee and the Materials Processing Equipment Technical Advisory Committee).

² Since at least 1973, the EAR has stated that the Department of Commerce will establish and use Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) when a substantial segment of a particular industry requests the establishment of a TAC concerning a specific grouping of items that the Department of Commerce determines difficult to evaluate for export control purposes. *See* Supplement No. 2 to 15 C.F.R. Part 730. This standard for establishing and using TACs in the EAR reflects earlier requirements of the EAA, and the amended Export Administration Act of 1969 before it. *See, e.g.,* Pub. L. 96-72, Sep. 29, 1979, Sec. 5(h) (including the requirements related to TACs in the EAA). During periods in which the EAA was in lapse, including in 1996 when the predecessor TACs were established, the President, through executive orders, also continued these and other provisions of the EAR in effect under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) (50 U.S.C. §§ 1701, *et seq.* (2012)). In 2018, ECRA replaced the EAA and IEEPA as the primary authority supporting the EAR. However, while Section 1766 of ECRA repealed the provisions of the EAA related to TACs, and while Section 1754 of ECRA provided a more general authority to "appoint technical advisory committees in accordance with [FACA,]" Section 1768 of ECRA provides, in pertinent part, that all rules and regulations that were made or issued under the EAA, including as continued in effect pursuant to IEEPA, and were in effect as of ECRA's date of enactment (August 13, 2018), shall continue in effect until modified, superseded, set aside, or revoked through action undertaken pursuant to the authority provided under ECRA. Accordingly, Commerce continues to abide by the EAR standard for setting up TACs and considers such TACs to be nondiscretionary when their creation or renewal is done consistent with the standard described in the EAR.

3. Objectives and Scope of Activities. The objectives of this Committee are to advise and assist the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) and other Federal agencies and officials with respect to actions designed to carry out the policy set forth in Section 1752 of ECRA. The Committee will be consulted where a recognized need of the Department of Commerce exists with respect to questions involving: (a) technical specifications and policy issues relating to those specifications that are of concern to the Department; (b) worldwide availability of products and systems, including quantity and quality, and actual utilization of production technology; (c) licensing procedures that affect the level of export controls applicable to any goods, software, or technology; (d) revisions of the Commerce Control List, including proposed revisions of multilateral controls in the United States participates; (e) the issuance of regulations; and (f) any other matters relating to actions designed to carry out the policy set forth in Section 1752 of ECRA.

The Committee's activities include evaluation and commentary on data and other evidence available from the Department, other reliable sources, and its own experience. The Committee will provide advice to the Department with respect to these matters. In this respect, the Committee will be forward leaning focusing on the use of such technologies and projecting their likely effects on the future for national security, the U.S. defense industrial base, and the overall health and competitiveness of the U.S. economy. In doing so, the Committee may, in coordination with BIS's Designated Federal Officer (DFO), work with the Emerging Technology Technical Advisory Committee.

4. Description of Duties. The Committee functions solely as an advisory body in accordance with the provisions of the FACA. Operations of the Committee will be overseen by the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration in consultation with the Under Secretary for Industry and Security. The Committee will provide advice to the Department with respect to matters listed above in Section 3. The Chairperson will prepare an annual report and an annual plan, in coordination with the DFO. The report will describe the Committee's membership, functions, activities, and such related matters as would be informative to the public consistent with the policy of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b), including a summary of the efforts of the Committee during the year and any recommendations agreed by the Committee.

5. Agency or Official to Whom the Committee Reports. The Committee reports to the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, BIS, U.S. Department of Commerce.

6. Support. The Office of Technology Evaluation, BIS, provides administrative support services for the Committee.

7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years. The estimated annual operating cost of the Committee is \$40,339, which includes an estimated 0.3 person-year of staff support. Committee members will not be compensated for their services, nor will they be reimbursed for travel, subsistence, and other expenses incurred by them in connection with their duties as members of the Committee.

8. Designated Federal Officer (DFO). The Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, in consultation with the Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security, will designate a full-time or permanent part-time employee of BIS to serve as the DFO for the Committee in

accordance with agency procedures. The DFO will approve or call all of the Committee and subcommittee meetings, prepare and approve all meeting agendas, attend all Committee and subcommittee meetings, adjourn any meetings when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and chair Committee meetings when directed to do so by the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration.

9. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings. The Committee meets quarterly at the call of the DFO, unless the Chairperson determines, in consultation with other members of the Committee, that such a meeting is not necessary to achieve the purposes of ECRA and the EAR. Meetings and work of the Committee shall be consistent with the provisions of FACA.

10. Duration. Continuing.

11. Termination. This charter will terminate two years from the date of the filing of this charter with the appropriate U.S. Senate and House of Representatives Oversight Committees unless earlier terminated or renewed by proper authority.

12. Membership and Designation. All members are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Secretary. Membership shall not exceed 35 members. Non-government members are engineers, scientists, academics, or other qualified persons from a representative cross-section of the Committee's area of focus. Government members are, to the extent possible, specialists in these product areas or export control specialists. To help ensure committee membership represents a range and balance of views, the Department will periodically solicit nominations for membership through various means, such as a Federal Register Notice, the BIS website, and/or outreach to industry associations, as well as academic, research, and development institutions. The length of a member's term shall be four years. A member may be reappointed for additional terms except that, consistent with Supplement No. 2 to 15 C.F.R. Part 730, the industry members shall not serve on the Committee for more than four consecutive years. Members who do not attend four consecutive Committee meetings will have their membership terminated.

The Committee shall elect a chairperson. The Secretary of Commerce and/or the Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security may recommend candidates for Chairperson for the Committee's non-exclusive consideration. It is desired that the Chairperson serve only a two-year term. However, the Chairperson may be re-elected as Chairperson, subject to continuation of the Committee.

Members will be selected on a clear, standardized basis, in accordance with applicable Department of Commerce guidance.

Non-federal members serve in a representative capacity and not as special government employees. Federal members serve as regular government employees.

All members must be able to qualify for a Secret security clearance or a security clearance at a level sufficient to perform their work on the Committee.

Members shall not reference or otherwise utilize their membership on the Committee in connection with public statements made in their personal capacities without a disclaimer that the

views expressed are their own and do not represent the views of the Committee, BIS or the Department of Commerce.

13. Subcommittees. The Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, in consultation with the Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security, may establish such subcommittees from among Committee members as may be necessary, subject to the provisions of FACA, the FACA implementing regulations, and applicable Department of Commerce guidance. Any subcommittees established must report back to the parent committee and must not provide advice and work products directly to the agency. Subcommittee members must be approved by the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration.

14. Recordkeeping. The records of the Committee, formally or informally established subcommittees, or other subgroups of the Committee, shall be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 6.2 or other approved agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552.



Acting Chief Financial Officer and
Assistant Secretary for Administration



Filing Date