

2022 CONTINUED SUPPLY DELAYS AND SHORTAGES

Procurement is actively monitoring the global supply chain disruption and its impact on Stony Brook University. We are here to assist you in finding the best possible products and services currently on the market and help protect you from paying too much.

Since the pandemic began in early 2020, the complexity of the global supply chain has become more apparent. Certain items, ranging from new cars to raw materials for plastic and aluminum to food products and beverages, are harder to come by than others. These present-day supply chain issues have also given rise to price increases and price gouging, in some instances.

Some of the fundamental factors affecting the supply chain issues include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Raw materials:** Plastic for containers, lead, acid for batteries, and petroleum-based products like pallets.
- **Parts shortages:** Chip shortage that many have been aware of for several months is not just limited to vehicles and computers.
- **Unpredictable consumer demand:** For example, when individuals or corporations fear shortages, they bulk purchase items that they would not usually keep in inventory. Everything is affected, from toys, such as puzzles, to plastic containers or raw materials like aluminum, to bicycles, as more individuals consider staying away from mass transit commuting.
- **Truck drivers:** Labor shortages in the U.S. trucking industry affect the supply chain to deliver goods and services.
- **Labor:** Shortages of labor cause shipping containers to remain parked in ports.
- **Port Congestion & Railroads:** Items coming into the Port of Los Angeles sometimes sit for four to six weeks before a ship can unload. As containers are building up in ports and rail yards, railroads are over capacity and are not taking any more containers.
- **Shipping containers:** There is no fundamental shortage of containers as they are all sitting full, waiting to be unloaded. What is needed is to be able to empty those containers and get their contents to a place where they can be purchased.

The above factors are part of the overall cause and effects of supply chain issues and are interconnected; a problem in one area exacerbates problems in others. We strongly suggest that you review your budget needs and proactively plan your requests and orders to include an additional longer delivery lead-time and potentially higher prices for items purchased that are in short supply.

Specific areas/items that we have identified as requiring additional lead-time include but are not limited to the following:

1. Appliances
2. Office Supplies
3. Vehicles
4. Electronics: Computers, Cell phones
5. Supplies for repairs, improvements, or renovations
6. Exercise and sport equipment
7. Furniture
8. Beverages

9. Apparel (promotional items)

Please consider the following in order to get what you want on time and for the right price:

- **Review current needs and plan for longer lead times.**
- **Contact Procurement to help find competitive pricing (procurement_office@stonybrook.edu).**
- **Start the process earlier than you typically would in order to allow more time to find the best deal.**
- **Review opportunities with Procurement to engage your suppliers in more strategic partnerships.**
- **Consider if it is possible to purchase more of something to take advantage of pricing discounts and potential future shortages.**

Thank you, all, for your continued efforts as we navigate our way through the myriad challenges that have been brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Rest assured, our Procurement team is here to help and will actively work to help you navigate through these unprecedented times.