



Bureau of Industry and Security



Do you export items from the United States, employ foreign nationals, or collaborate on research and development with foreign nationals? If so, please read further to stay in compliance with U.S. export control regulations and avoid breaking the law.

Export Controls

- Export controls are federal regulations that help to protect U.S. national security and foreign policy, and address proliferation concerns by regulating and restricting the export of sensitive goods and technologies to foreign nationals or foreign countries.
- While many items are not impacted by export controls, high technology items, or those destined for sanctioned countries will often require a license before they are exported.
- For example, items such as encryption software, night vision equipment, and technology for unmanned aerial systems are all potentially covered under export controls and may require authorization prior to shipment or transmission out of the United States.
- Additionally, the release of technology or source code to a foreign national in the United States is potentially “deemed” to be an export and subject to export control regulations.
- Economic sanctions on countries such as Cuba and Russia, among others, also involve export controls.

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- The U.S. Department of Commerce’s Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) administers and enforces export controls on many military items (primarily parts and components), and dual-use items (items that have both commercial and military or proliferation applications).
- The goal of BIS is to keep the most sensitive goods and technologies out of dangerous hands.
- Other federal agencies administer economic sanctions or export controls on certain sensitive items, including the Department of the Treasury, Department of State, Department of Energy, and Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Services

- BIS offers a variety of services to help you comply with export control laws and regulations, including live seminars, an online training room, and weekly teleconference calls; export counselors are also available by phone at (202) 482-4811 or (949) 660-0144 for the Western Regional Office.
- For more information, visit the BIS website at www.bis.doc.gov or follow us on Twitter [@BISgov](https://twitter.com/BISgov).