

Export licencing and you

Many exporters tell us that export licencing and export control as it is sometimes called is something that does not affect them in any way.



Morley
Consulting Training Limited

Common mistakes:

I don't ship ammunition...

Some believe that as they don't ship arms, ammunition, explosives or nuclear material they have no need to consider export licencing and control.

I don't ship to 'difficult' countries...

Others tell us that they only export to America, Australia and other 'friendly countries' so licences don't apply.

The goods don't come to the UK...

Some companies don't export goods at all, they just act as buying or selling agents of one kind or another so believe that as they don't export they can't possibly be covered by export control legislation.

Top Tips

All exporters should be concerned...

Export licencing or control should be of concern to all those involved in exporting goods, technology and know-how. It is a legal requirement that all exporters check their activities against the legislation and on a case by case basis determine if a licence of any kind is required. This is true regardless of whether you are exporting pencils, portraits, power supplies or parachutes.

Trading and Brokering...

The legislation also covers what is called 'trading and brokering' so buying and selling agents are also required to check their activities against the legislation.

Ask the questions...

Control is based on the results of questions concerning the type of goods, the destination, end-user and intended end-use. Some shipments will be forbidden, some will need an export licence and others will not need any kind of licence. This is why exporters cannot solely base their decision on the absence or presence of a statement in the Customs tariff that a particular type of goods under a particular tariff code needs an export licence.

Keep up!

Another challenge is that changes to legislation can occur daily depending on the political situation around the world. It is not just a problem for what might currently be considered the more volatile destinations. Human rights violations, political repression and support for activities or groups considered unacceptable all play a part. Individuals as well as countries can appear on Sanctions lists.

Check it out!

Don't get caught out and face possible criminal prosecution along with fines and dissatisfied customers. If you export or cause goods, technology or know-how to move around the world you need an appropriate export control process!

Licences are controlled by BIS, DEFRA and Arts Council Great Britain.

Need help?

If you need advice or training we offer public and bespoke courses on all aspects of export licencing including CITES.

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