

Frequently Asked Questions about the Checker Tools

This document aims to answer practical questions about using the Checker Tools – either Goods Checker or OGEL Checker.

Find answers to the following questions:

1. [What are the Checker Tools?](#)
2. [I went through the registration process more than two hours ago and have not yet received my password. Where is it and how long does it take to receive?](#)
3. [I have registered to use the Checker Tools? Does this also mean that I am automatically registered to use OGELs?](#)
4. [Why do we have to register to use the Checker Tools and log in each time we want to use it?](#)
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12. [The country I want to export my goods to does not appear on the country pick list in OGEL Checker. What do I do?](#)
13. [I have previously used an OGEL for the export of my products to a particular country but OGEL Checker does not offer this OGEL for possible use. What do I do?](#)

You might also find it helpful to look at the Checker Tools guidance documents.

If your question is not answered within this document, you should contact:

- For technical issues (eg login problems) – help@ecochecker.co.uk
- For general export licensing issues contact the ECO Helpline on 020 7215 4594 or eco.help@bis.gsi.gov.uk

Registration

Question 1 - What are the Checker Tools?

The Checker Tools is a database designed to help UK exporters of military or dual-use goods firstly, to determine if their goods require an export licence and secondly, to determine if an Open General Export Licence might be available. The two separate parts to the website include:

- **Goods Checker** helps exporters identify where their goods, software or technology are specified in the UK Strategic Export Control Lists.
- **OGEL Checker** is available to help exporters work out which OGEL they may be able to use, once they know the rating of their items and the destination of their export.

Once you have registered for one tool you will be able to use both of them.

The database is provided by the Export Control Organisation, part of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). ECO is the UK's regulatory authority for export licensing of 'strategic' goods.

For further details about export controls see also:

- Practical guidance for exporters published at <http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/exportcontrol>
- For details of ECO's training courses and the ECO's Notices to Exporters – <http://www.bis.gov.uk/exportcontrol>
- Apply for a licence via SPIRE export licensing database – <https://www.spire.bis.gov.uk>
- Strategic Export Controls - Reports and Statistics database - <https://www.exportcontroldb.berr.gov.uk/eng/fox/sdb/SDBHOME>

Question 2 – I went through the registration process more than two hours ago and have not yet received my password. Where is it and how long does it take to receive?

You will normally receive your password by email within 15 minutes although about five minutes is typical. However it might be worth checking whether or not you may have incorrectly typed your email address. You can do this by using the “**Forgotten your password**” function. If you have already been allocated a password it will send it (again) to the email address you provided. If your email address is not recognised you will be advised that “your log in details are invalid” and a link is provided back to the registration screen so you go through the registration process again.

If you are still having trouble send an email to help@ecoChecker.co.uk

Question 3 – I have registered to use the Checker Tools. Does this mean I am also automatically registered to use OGELs?

No. You need to register separately for the OGELs you intend to use via the ECO's SPIRE export licensing database at <https://www.spire.bis.gov.uk>

You also need to register for the Community General Export Authorisation (CGEA) which is the European Union equivalent of an OGEL.

Question 4 – Why do we have to register to use the Checker Tools and log in each time we want to use it?

We would like to know who is using the Checker Tools so that we can invite your feedback on how the tools are working and tell you about any changes we are going to make. Registration is also required for compliance and enforcement reasons.

Using the Search Screens in Goods Checker

Question 5 – What lists does the Goods Checker search?

The Goods Checker database searches relevant export control legislative documents in the form of the published UK Strategic Export Control Lists. These documents are also published and directly downloadable at <http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/exportcontrol/controllists>

The UK Strategic Export Control Lists comprise the following different lists:

- UK Military List (Schedule 2 of the Export Control Order 2008)
- UK Dual-Use List (Schedule 3 of the Export Control Order 2008)
- European Union (EU) Human Rights List (Annexes II and III of 2005 EC Regulation 1236/2005)
- UK National Radioactive Sources List (Schedule referred to in Article 2 of Export of Radioactive Sources (Control) Order 2006)
- EU Dual-Use List (Annex I of the EU Dual-Use Regulation 428/2009)

You should note that the Goods Checker does not enable you to search on any additional individual lists of goods referenced in specific sanctions imposed by the European Union or by the United Nations. If you are intending to export to a sanctioned destination you should be aware of any relevant sanctions. See: <http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/exportcontrol/embargoes>

Question 6 – What happens if I spell my keyword incorrectly when using Goods Checker?

Goods Checker will only search and find precise matches on the word(s) you enter. There is no spell check function and no fuzzy logic built in. So you need to take great care in choosing the keywords you use. It is often a good

idea to enter the first part of a word e.g. “sulph” to search for “sulphur”, “sulphate” and “sulphite” etc.

For further suggestions on how to make effective searches, see the documents ‘**Guidance about Goods Checker**’ and ‘**Goods Checker: Example Searches**’ which are both available on this site.

Question 7 – My Goods Checker search produced no matches. Can I be sure that no licence is required?

If you have not used the right sort of keywords you may not find the relevant entries in the lists that could specify your goods, software or technology.

For further advice on searching, see the documents ‘**Guidance about Goods Checker**’ and ‘**Goods Checker: Example Searches**’ which are both available on this site.

You also need to consider if either the Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) or Military End-Use Control may apply. See guidance on the Businesslink website about End-Use controls –

<http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/exportcontrol>

Question 8 – What is the difference between the Goods Checker and the Control List Classification Search Tool (available on SPIRE)?

The Control List Classification Search Tool is an additional resource that enables you to search on previous goods ‘ratings’ or Control List classification assessments made by the ECO’s Technical Assessment Unit. By using the tool, you can get an indication of whether your items are listed on a Control List and what the ‘rating’ entry for your particular goods might be.

The tool is accessible to registered users of SPIRE, ECO’s export licensing database – <https://www.spire.bis.gov.uk> (new users will need to register).

Goods Checker differs in function in that it enables you to search on the specific wording of the UK Strategic Export Control List text. Goods Checker can be helpful in identifying the reasons, definitions and specifics of the controls.

If you are self-rating you are advised to use both tools in conjunction with each other.

Question 9 – Can we still use the ECO’s Control List Classification Advice Service?

If you are still unsure about the Control List entry reference or ‘rating’ of your goods, software or technology you can still use the Control List Classification Advice Service available through SPIRE. This service is advisory only and is not a licence application which should be applied for separately via SPIRE. It

is not compulsory to use the ECO's advisory services if you are confident in your ability to self-rate your goods.

Question 10 – I know my goods need a licence but why do I need to know the 'control list entry' or 'rating'?

You may be able to use an Open General Export Licence (OGEL) rather than apply for an individual licence. However you should note the following caveats about use of OGELs:

- OGELs can only be used for certain less restricted goods and for certain specified destinations.
- you **need to meet all the conditions** on an OGEL if it is to be used.
- you need to know the control list entry reference or 'rating' of your goods to find out if they are eligible for any relevant OGEL. Eligible goods, software and technology are included, or excluded from OGELs according to their rating.
- you need to register in advance on SPIRE before using an OGEL
- you will be subject to Compliance Audits conducted by the Export Control Organisation (ECO).

Once you know the 'rating' and the destination country you can use OGEL Checker to find out which OGELs may apply and what conditions they have.

Remember that if you cannot meet all the terms and conditions of an OGEL, you will need to apply for a Standard Individual Export Licence.

Using the Search Screens in OGEL Checker

Question 11 – What do I do if do not know the Control List entry reference or 'rating' for my goods, software or technology?

You need to know the 'rating'. To identify the rating, you can either self-rate your own goods by using Goods Checker and the Control List Classification Search Tool (on SPIRE) or by seeking advice from an export control consultant. Alternatively, you can make a Control List Classification Advice Service request via SPIRE.

Question 12 - The country I want to export my goods to does not appear on the country pick list. What do I do?

Look for alternative names that are used for that country e.g. for Myanmar see Burma or for Peoples Republic of China see China (PRC). The eight Emirates all come under the United Arab Emirates. Check, by e.g. a search on Google, that the destination is indeed a country. If you still cannot find the country please e-mail to help@ecoChecker.co.uk

Checking conditions

Question 13 – I have previously used an OGEL for the export of one of my products to a particular country but OGEL Checker does not offer this OGEL for possible use? What do I do?

The OGEL may have been revised since you last used it. Refer to a copy of the OGEL available from the ECO's webpages on the Businesslink website and read it to ensure that it does indeed apply. If you believe it does then please advise us (send an e-mail to help@ecoChecker.co.uk) that OGEL Checker is not offering it as a possible OGEL to users.

It is possible that you have used the OGEL when it may not have been appropriate to do so, in which case you may need to apply for a Standard Individual Export Licence in future or use another licence.