

Guidance about Goods Checker

The Goods Checker is a web-based search tool to help exporters find out whether they need an export licence for their goods, software or technology.

A licence is required if your goods are listed on the UK Strategic Export Control Lists (or if not listed because of End-Use Controls). Licence applications should be made via SPIRE – <https://www.spire.bis.gov.uk>

This guidance covers an overview about how best to use the tool and brief background about the Control Lists and strategic export control legislation.

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1. USING GOODS CHECKER

1.1 How it works

You can search the current **UK Strategic Export Control Lists** (which incorporate the EU Control Lists including the Dual-Use List) by entering a keyword (or words) describing your goods.

If a match is found, you can click on a highlighted keyword (or words) and get more information including:

- Definitions of terms
- More details about the specific control
- The reasons for control
- Photographs of typical examples for some goods (only some entries)

You should then check these descriptions in relation to your own goods.

If the goods are referenced on the Lists, you will need to find out what licence coverage is required before the goods, software or technology can be exported.

1.2 How to make effective searches using Goods Checker

If you are unable to find your goods, software or technology in the lists using Goods Checker, it does not necessarily mean that they are not controlled.

You may not have run the correct search or may be searching on the wrong type of keyword e.g. a product brand or trade name. End-Use Controls can also apply to goods that are not listed. Some basic guidance on searching is given below and more can be found in [Quick Help](#).

- Do not try to search using product brand or trade names. If you searched the list for **'AK47'**, for instance, you will not find a match in any entry of the lists. This does not mean that it is not controlled but that the lists are not structured around brand or trade names. If you search under **'rifle'** you will find entries relevant for the AK47 automatic assault rifle.
- Another example is searching for the keyword **'Saracen'**, which is the name of a military armoured personnel carrier. If you search for this you will not find any matches, but if you search for **'vehicle'**, you will find the relevant entries, and more. You could also search on for **'military' AND 'vehicle'** from the Advanced Search screen.
- A further example is for the alpha particle emitting radionuclides polonium-208, -209 and -210. Searching for **'polonium'** does not

produce any matches. However, a search for **'alpha'** finds the entry relevant to these radionuclides.

- If you are exporting a radio that has been specially designed or modified for military use and search for **'radio'** there are numerous matches but not to the relevant entry. Using the Advanced Search screen to search for **'military' AND 'electronic'** produces a match with a relevant entry.
- If you are transferring technology you first need to start searching for the associated goods. A project to design and construct plant to produce hafnium will require technology transfer. You need to search for **'hafnium'** and will find **entry 1C231**. You then need to browse through **technology sub-category 1E** for any associated controls. A search for **'1E'** will present all of the entries in the materials technology sub-category.
- If you are exporting software the method of searching will need to be similar to that for technology.

For more advice see the FAQs and Help guidance.

1.3 Browsing the Control Lists

Alternatively, you can browse through the individual lists, which are the basic building blocks of the Goods Checker database. (for more details about the lists see below).

You can do this when you are in either of the Search Screens: click the **Go** button without entering any search words in the 'search text box'. The lists will appear in the left hand side of the screen and can be expanded in the right hand side of the screen.

1.4 Using the current lists

By using Goods Checker you can ensure that the versions of the UK Strategic Export Control Lists you are using to **'rate' or 'classify'** your goods, software or technology are from the current export control legislation. When any of this legislation is updated, the lists used in Goods Checker are also updated, unless advice is given to the contrary e.g. when an update is in progress. For information on amendments to the legislation see <http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/exportcontrol>

2. BACKGROUND ABOUT EXPORT CONTROLS

2.1 UK and EU export controls

UK export controls are implemented through the Export Control Act 2002 which establishes a framework for the control of exports of strategic goods. The Export Control Order (Statutory Instrument 2008 No. 3231) is secondary legislation under that Act which sets out controls and lists strategic goods,

software and technology that are subject to control. In addition to UK legislation, there is the European Union Council Regulation (EC) No. 428/2009 which sets up the EU regime for the control of exports of dual-use items and technology, and has its own list of controlled items and technology.

2.2 What the UK Strategic Export Control Lists cover?

The lists cover military and dual-use goods. The majority of **UK controls** are found in what is known as the **UK Military List** - almost all goods designed for a military purpose are covered.

EU legislation covers what are known as **Dual-Use goods**. These are goods that are designed for a commercial purpose but can be used in both commercial and military applications. They tend to be complex or high specification goods, or speciality materials. Good examples are electronic components designed for general applications but which can also be used for military purposes and the element hafnium, which has nuclear applications.

The **UK also controls** some **additional Dual-Use items** under its national legislation where it has concerns over their export from the UK.

2.3 How the lists are organised?

The **Military List** is drawn intentionally wide to cover all goods of a certain type. There may then be some exceptions to the overall control. For example, entry ML13 of the UK Military List controls body armour, but then releases individual suits from control when accompanying their users. As a general rule, if the items you are exporting are designed for a military purpose, they are likely to be controlled by the UK Military List.

The Military List consists of the following categories of items:

- ML1 and ML2 - Smooth bore weapons
- ML3 - Ammunition and components for ML1, ML2 and ML12
- ML4 - Bombs, grenades, rockets, missiles and other devices, components and accessories
- ML5 - Devices for fire control, components and accessories and their counter measure equipment
- ML6 – Ground vehicles, containers and components
- ML7 and ML8 – Explosives and chemicals
- ML9 – Vessels, special naval equipment, accessories and components
- ML10 – Aircraft, unmanned airborne vehicles, aeroengines
- ML11 – Electronic equipment and components
- ML12 – High velocity kinetic energy weapon systems
- ML13 – Armour plate and body armour
- ML14 – Simulators and training equipment
- ML15 – Imaging equipment
- ML16 – Forging, castings and unfinished products
- ML17 – Miscellaneous goods including diving equipment, ferries, containers
- ML18 – Production equipment

- ML19 – Directed weapon systems
- ML21 – Software for listed goods
- ML22 and PL5017 – Technology for listed goods
- PL5017 – Equipment and test models
- PL5001 – Paramilitary goods

The **EU Dual-Use List** is divided into ten categories and for each category there are five sub-categories. A control entry typically sets out the types of goods to be controlled, followed by technical parameters that must be met before the control applies. This generally means that only high specification products are controlled (though this is not true in all cases), together with associated software and technology. For example, digital computers are controlled under Category 4, but the parameters applied to the control mean that only the highest specification machines will be under control. The vast majority of home and office computers do not normally need an export licence.

The EU Dual-Use List consists of the following categories:

- Category 0 nuclear materials
- Category 1 materials, chemicals, ‘micro-organisms’ and ‘toxins’
- Category 2 materials processing
- Category 3 electronics
- Category 4 computers
- Category 5 telecommunications and information security
- Category 6 sensors and lasers
- Category 7 navigation and lasers
- Category 8 marine
- Category 9 aerospace and propulsion

Sub-categories:

- A – systems, equipment and components
- B – test, inspection and production equipment
- C – materials
- D – software
- E - technology

For more details about the structure of the Control Lists see guidance on the Businesslink website about how to determine if your goods need a licence – <http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/exportcontrol/ratings>

End-Use Controls

Exporters must also remember that as well as the controls applied to items on the lists, items can also come under the End-Use controls because of the use to which the goods are to be put. The End-Use controls are also known as the Catch-All controls. **End-Use is not covered by Goods Checker.** Exporters must ensure that they comply with the End-Use controls and all other UK export requirements before exporting any items. For guidance on the WMD

and military End-Use controls see
<http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/exportcontrol>.

The relevant export control legislation for the UK Strategic Export Control Lists is:

- **The Export Control Order, Statutory Instrument 2008 No. 3231**, as amended:
 - **UK Military List:** Schedule 2, Part 1: Military, Security and Para-Military Goods, Software and Technology and Arms, Ammunition and Related Materiel;
 - **UK Dual-Use List:** Schedule 3: Dual-Use Goods, Software and Technology including the UK Explosive-Related List;
 - **Human Rights List:** Annexes II and III of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1236/2005 and article 9 of the Export Control Order
 - **UK National Radioactive Sources:** Export of Radioactive Sources (Control) Order 2006 S.I. 2006
- **Council Regulation (EC) No. 428/2009**, setting up a Community regime for the control of exports of dual-use items and technology, as amended:
 - **EU Dual-Use List:** Annex I: List of Dual-Use Items and Technology.

3. LEGAL DISCLAIMER

Responsibility for compliance with export control legislation rests with the exporter. The Checker Tools are for information only and have no force in law. Please note that where legal advice is required, exporters should make their own arrangements.

4. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further details about export controls, you should visit

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

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

The SPIRE export licensing database is <https://www.spire.bis.gov.uk>

You can also contact the ECO helpline by email at eco.help@bis.gsi.gov.uk or by telephone at 020 7215 4594.