Export Control Compliance

“Protecting MIT's open research policy and the free interchange of information among scholars while complying with U.S. Export Control Law”

Janet C. Johnston
Senior Export Control Officer
The Top 6 Things You Should Know About International Travel

• Everything that crosses the border is an export!
• What types of things are export controlled?
• Material doesn’t have to be dangerous to be controlled.
• Interactions with certain international entities and persons are restricted
• Advice on travelling with laptops and phones
• Advice on travelling with other equipment
What’s an Export?

Export

Everything that crosses the border is an export...
Products, Equipment, Materials, Software, Technology, Information, and “Services”
...even if it’s temporary
...even if hand-carried
...even if it will be used for research
...even if the item was made in that country

“Deemed” Export*
Disclosing controlled information to non-US entity or individual — even in the US, even on campus
• ITAR: license for all non-US (some exceptions)
• EAR: License required some nationalities
*Only refers to technology and software

Services
Broadly defined. Examples: Instruction, or advice, giving a keynote speech, accepting an award.
How do the Regulations Differ?

• **Sanctions** on a country are usually to punish, coerce, or sometimes target a specific tech area (Comprehensively sanctioned countries: Iran, N. Korea, Syria, Crimea, Cuba. Other countries of concern: Russia, Belarus, occupied Ukraine areas, and Venezuela)

• **Export Restrictions** (e.g., ITAR, EAR, DOE) are to prevent potentially dangerous material from getting into the wrong hands

• **Denied/restricted parties** are specific to persons or institutions--entities list, SDNs, etc.
  (Check with ECO ahead of time if you know what organizations you are visiting)
Advice

Laptops/Mobile Phones
• Don’t take anything controlled with you
• Take a “clean” laptop
• Stick to previously published material.
• Be aware of what kind of data you receive through your mobile phone.
• Retain “effective control” over these items (on your person, in hotel safe, etc. NOT checked baggage.)

Other Equipment
• It’s best to ship material if possible—through third-party carriers to ensure proper compliance with environment, health and safety regulations, export control clearances, and other procedures.

Field Work
• Any university research activity done outside the U.S. may not qualify for the Fundamental Research Exclusion. For example: deploying restricted material in international waters is an export!
• Shipping with intermediate stops can be an export to those countries!

Teaching is a “service”

If you need to take equipment with you contact the ECOs—we can tell you if the export is allowed.
The Message--

• Export control considerations are complicated.
• Contact Export Control early on.
  — Especially if you need to export data or equipment.
• MIT has the staff to help you accomplish what you need to do and keep you out of trouble!

Let us help you!

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Export Control Officers

https://research.mit.edu/integrity-and-compliance/export-control