

Suggested distribution

Vice-chancellors;
Research Offices;
heads of all academic
departments listed in
this cover note

Action

For information

Executive Summary

This information note provides guidance to the academic community following the imposition of new export controls, which have taken effect from the 1 May 2004

Attachment(s)

I/04/62(a) - full
guidance for the sector
on export control
legislation and higher
education

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17 May 2004

Export controls: guidance for the higher education sector

1. This information note provides guidance to the academic community following the imposition of new export controls, which have taken effect from the 1 May 2004. The full guidance is attached as Annex I/04/62(a).
2. From 1 May 2004 the controls have been extended to include transfers related to a Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) end-use (i) made by any means; (including face-to-face discussions and demonstration); (ii) made within the UK or by UK persons outside the EC (where the end-use is outside the EC); and (iii) technical assistance to a WMD programme outside the EC.
3. The additional provisions aim to ensure that export controls are comprehensive. They are not aimed specifically at the scientific or academic communities but do have potential application in those sectors; for example, in terms of relevant teaching or research activities. Therefore this guidance provides:
 - a broad summary of UK export controls in relation to academia;
 - an explanation of where the various exemptions apply;
 - a discussion of what this means in practice for academics.
 - case studies to help illustrate these points.
4. Preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) is a priority for the British Government. It is clear that some countries of concern target UK academic expertise to acquire knowledge that will be used in WMD programmes. In certain circumstances you may need an export licence from the DTI to carry out an activity, and failure to obtain one could result in a criminal offence being committed.
5. Controls on the communication of sensitive technology are an important part of the UK counter-proliferation strategy. This guidance aims to help

the scientific and academic communities understand the potential impact of the controls contained in the export control legislation. This forms part of ongoing Government work with representatives of the scientific and research communities to help their members become aware of, understand and operate controls under the Export Control Act 2002.

6. To help identify an appropriate audience for this guidance, the Government has drawn up the list below, identifying disciplines that are considered to present the highest risk. The disciplines are necessarily broad so that they are comprehensive.

Academic disciplines of concern

Aeronautical engineering	Control engineering
Computing science	Mechatronics
Biochemistry	Electrical engineering Metallurgy
Biology	Electronic engineering Microbiology
Biotechnology	Genetics
Ceramics and glass	Materials science
Chemical engineering	Mathematics
Chemistry	Molecular biology
Mechanical engineering	Molecular biophysics
Physics (inc nuclear)	Production engineering

7. Universities UK would advise that this guidance note is circulated to the heads of all academic departments covered by the above list.
8. This guidance note has been drafted by the Department for Trade and Industry following extensive consultation with the academic community. If you have difficulty using this guidance, or there are areas that you feel are not clear, please direct any feed back to the UUK contact listed above. This guidance will undergo regular evaluation concerning it's usability, therefore feed back on any problems encountered is vital.
9. Further information on Export Controls can be found at <http://www.dti.gov.uk/export.control/>

17 May 2004

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