

Export Controls

Ireland's approach in an international and EU context

Carol Toolan, Deputy Director, Trade Regulation 25 September 2025

Why do we have export controls?



- ☐ Enable responsible free trade
- ☐ Comply with international obligations
- ☐ Prevent sensitive items falling into the wrong hands
- ☐ Mitigate misuse of sensitive items
- ☐ Prevent proliferation of weapons
- ☐ Protect national, EU, and global security



Who decides what items are controlled?



Ireland represented at international nonproliferation regimes via DFAT including:

- Wassenaar
- **■**MTCR
- ☐ Australia Group
- NSG
- ☐ Regimes inform EU regulations
- ☐ List based export controls
- ☐ Member States can establish national lists of items if specific risk identified



The Australia Group





From international to EU rules



- ☐ EU regulations harmonize export controls across member states
- ☐ Key areas and competence:
 - Dual-use: EU and National Competence
 - ☐ Military: National Competence
 - ☐ Anti-torture: EU Competence
 - ☐ Civilian firearms to third countries: EU Competence
- ☐ EU rules directly influence national law



Control of Exports Act 2023







Number 27 of 2023

CONTROL OF EXPORTS ACT 2023

CONTENTS

PART 1

PRELIMINARY AND GENERAL

- Short title and commencement
- 2 Interpretation

Official Journal of the European Union

NOTICES FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS, BODIES, OFFICES AND

COUNCIL

(equipment covered by Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP defining common rules governing the control of exports of military technology and equipment

(updating and replacing the Common Military List of the European Union adopted by the Council on 18 February

(2020/C 85/01)

REGULATIONS

(Legislative acts)

GULATION (EU) 2021/821 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNC

ig up a Union regime for the control of exports, brokering, technical assistance, transit

PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,



Where does the Department fit in?

Policy and Licensing exportcontrol@enterprise.gov.ie



Compliance and Enforcement

trade.compliance@enterprise.gov.ie

Keeping Up with EU Changes



Update to Annex I

- ☐ EU Commission announced updates on 8 September
- ☐ In line with international decisions by the international regimes.
- ☐ Strengthen EU level control of new and emerging technology
- ☐ Scrutiny period runs until 8 November (Council & Parliament)
- ☐ New controls in force thereafter

EU Export Control Forum

- ☐ Export Control Forum 14 November EU Commission
- ☐ Focus on dual-use exports
- ☐ Expected to be a hybrid event
- ☐ It will be a platform for discussion & feedback

Evaluation of Dual-Use Regulation

- ☐ Dual-Use Regulation 821/21: evaluation in 2026
- ☐ Is the Regulation working?
- ☐ Feed in views at national and EU level
- ☐ What do you view as the key issues?



Key Points to Remember



- Export controls aim to balance trade and security
- ☐ Export controls are primarily list based
- ☐ Ireland implements EU-aligned rules via Control of Exports Act 2023
- ☐ Stay engaged with EU updates and consultations
- ☐ Ensure your views are reflected at EU level

