



Understanding Export Controls

We're here to help!

What does 'export control' mean?

Export control regulations are designed to control the flow of information and materials from the United States to foreign persons and countries. The purpose of export regulations are to restrict the export of goods and technology with military potential, prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, advance U.S. foreign policy goals, and protect the economy and promote trade. All types of items fall under these regulations, from a toothpick to a high speed computer. Even a conversation with a non-citizen can be considered an export! The two primary regulatory agencies are the Department of Commerce, which oversees the Export Administration Regulations (EAR), and the Department of State, which oversees the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR). The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Department of Energy, and the Department of the Treasury have additional regulations, as do various other agencies.

What does that mean for me?

UMass Lowell personnel may need to take certain precautions if engaging in the following activities:

- International travel or collaboration
- Sending information or items to foreign countries
- Working with any sensitive or export-controlled technologies, including those related to military or space uses
- Conducting work under service agreements
- Hiring or working with foreign students or visiting faculty
- Using foreign sponsors or vendors
- Conducting work which has personnel or publication restrictions

In some cases, such activities may require that the University obtain a license to conduct the work, or a plan be developed to isolate the work area from access by any foreign national.

What about Fundamental Research?

The regulations allow for Universities to use a Fundamental Research Exclusion (FRE) to many export controls, if the project is considered fundamental research and is intended for broad dissemination and publication (i.e., thesis, journal paper, patent, or conference proceeding, with no personnel or publication restrictions). Foreign nationals are not restricted from participating in most fundamental research activities. However, sending something outside of the U.S. is still considered an export and may require a license!

How do I know what to do?

Violations are very serious (and expensive), and the Office of Institutional Compliance is here to help you comply with applicable regulations and avoid mistakes. You can find all of the forms and guidelines on the website at <http://www.uml.edu/Research/OIC/export-controls/default.aspx>. Online training is also available at www.citiprogram.org. For assistance, contact:

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