

Enforcing Canada's Arms Control Policies

15. How does Canada ensure that goods are not illegally diverted to unacceptable destinations or end uses?

The vast majority of Canada's controlled military goods exports go to fellow NATO members or to like-minded governments with which Canada has strong relations. These countries also have strong export controls of their own. That means the risk of illegal diversion and unauthorized use is extremely low.

Another tool to defend against illegal diversion and unauthorized use is the system of end-use certifications and documentation. People and businesses in many countries need approvals from their governments to import many goods that international export control agreements cover. These approvals may include a permit authorizing the import and another that certifies that the goods have arrived in the country.

End-use assurances are also often requested in order to verify the nature of the end use or to seek a commitment not to re-export or re-transfer the good. Sometimes Canada seeks confirmation of this by an independent body or the recipient government. If needed, Canadian missions abroad may research or verify such documentation. All this adds more security to Canada's export control process.

Another protection against illegal diversion and use is Canada's assessment approach to military goods export applications. The federal government looks closely at proposed buyers to determine their soundness and legitimacy.

Finally, international contacts and experience, including in the customs field, keep Canadian officials alert to possible attempts to divert military goods to inappropriate buyers and countries. Detention, seizure and criminal prosecution are options available under the Export and Import Permits Act to prevent illegal exports.