

## BACKGROUNDER

The Export Control List (ECL) is a list of 150 products whose export is controlled by the Government of Canada. Exports are controlled for five reasons:

to ensure that military equipment or articles having a strategic value will not be available to any country where their use might be detrimental to the security of Canada.

to promote the further processing in Canada of a natural resource.

to limit or keep under surveillance the export of raw or processed materials.

to implement an intergovernmental arrangement or commitment.

to ensure an adequate supply of goods in Canada for defence or other needs.

The list contains primarily strategic industrial, military and nuclear products, although some more common goods such as cedar logs, certain types of clothing and rare species of flora and fauna are also controlled. Examples of strategic industrial products on the list include computers, sophisticated telecommunications equipment, and numerically controlled machine tools. Canada's ECL is being revised to bring it into agreement with the COCOM list, which is used by our allies as the basis for their export control systems. It is important that Canada's ECL be as up to date as those of our allies, otherwise Canadian exporters face more export restrictions than their competitors.

COCOM is short for the Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Strategic Export Controls. It is a non-treaty group of representatives from 16 countries (NATO minus Iceland, plus Japan), whose task is to coordinate controls on exports of sensitive goods and technology to the Warsaw Pact, the People's Republic of China, and various of their satellites. COCOM members agree to control goods and technology which would directly and significantly assist the military capability of the Warsaw Pact and China. They implement these controls by including the COCOM List of controlled goods in their own Export Control Lists.

The Area Control List (ACL) is a list of countries for which all exports are subject to export control requirements. A country is placed on the ACL when we wish to control the export of products in addition to those listed on the ECL. For example, in the case of South Africa, we will be controlling all the items on the ECL plus all computers, all software, all telecommunications equipment, all aircraft and parts, and four-wheel-drive vehicles. After the announced changes to the ACL, only South Africa and Libya will be on the list.