- Group 2 Munitions. This Group comprises goods and technologies that are specially designed or modified for military purposes. All controls under this Group form part of Canada's commitment to COCOM.
- Group 3 Atomic Energy. This Group includes goods that are nuclear-related. Like Groups 1 and 2, the controls under this Group also come from Canada's commitment to COCOM.
- Group 4 Nuclear Non-proliferation. This Group also includes goods that are nuclear-related, as well as dual-use, civilian goods that *could* be used in the proliferation of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices. The goods and technologies described in this Group encompass the Zangger List as well as goods subject to control by the Nuclear Suppliers Group.
- Group 5 Miscellaneous Goods. Group 5 covers miscellaneous goods that are controlled in order to protect natural resources and to fulfil Canada's commitments to non-strategic multilateral agreements. Included in this Group are forest products, endangered species (flora and fauna), medical products, agricultural and food products, U.S. origin goods and automatic weapons.
- Group 6 Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). This Group includes goods and technologies agreed upon by the MTCR and that are used or could be used in the proliferation of systems capable of delivering chemical, biological or nuclear weapons.
- Group 7 Chemical and Biological Weapon Non-proliferation. This Group encompasses chemicals and biological agents as well as related dual-use equipment that *could* be used in the proliferation of chemical or biological weapons as identified and agreed by the Australia Group.
- Group 8 Chemicals for the Production of Illicit Drugs. This Group contains a list of precursor chemicals that could be used in the production of illicit drugs. These have been identified and agreed to by the Chemical Action Task Force (CATF). Some of the chemicals are also subject to controls imposed under the "United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances" ratified by Canada in November 1990.

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This Guide also includes an Index. Exporters are encouraged to review the Index which will assist them in determining where or if their goods are controlled. Exporters are cautioned, however, that the Index is not all-inclusive and that generic names or other terms are used in place of common or trade terminology.

Levels of Control

All goods and technologies listed in Groups 1, 2 and 3 can be classified into one of the three levels of control. The levels of control define the level of sensitivity of the goods and technologies. It is important to find the level of control of a good or a technology because it defines the procedure under which an export permit application is reviewed. These three levels of control are:

General Exception (GE) — This is the level of control that contains goods and technologies having the highest level of strategic sensitivity. Goods and technologies are classified at the General Exception (GE) level when they are included in Groups 1, 2 and 3 of the ECL and when the Administrative Exception or the Favourable Consideration levels of control do not apply.

Administrative Exception (AE) — This is the level of control that contains goods and technologies having the lowest level of strategic sensitivity. Goods and technologies are classified at the Administrative Exception (AE) level when they are specifically exempt from the GE level of control under AE notes. The AE notes are generally presented as follows: "Governments may permit, as administrative exceptions, the shipment of ...".