

Under current export control policy guidelines, Canada closely controls the export of military goods and technology to countries:

- ◆ that pose a threat to Canada and its allies;
- ◆ that are involved in or under imminent threat of hostilities;
- ◆ that are under United Nations Security Council sanctions; or
- ◆ whose governments have a persistent record of serious violations of the human rights of their citizens, unless it can be demonstrated that there is no reasonable risk that the goods might be used against the civilian population.

Permits are required for the export of military goods and technology to all destinations except the United States. The approval of the Minister of Foreign Affairs is required for the export of all controlled goods deemed to have an offensive capability, unless they are destined to a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) or to one of a small group of specified like-minded countries. The Minister is also consulted about cases involving non-offensive military goods and technology, should concerns exist about any of the above-mentioned criteria. Before the Minister's approval is sought, extensive consultations are held among human rights, military and industry experts at DFAIT, the Department of National Defence, Industry Canada and, where appropriate, other government departments and agencies. These consultations involve reviewing the latest information and best policy advice on Canada's defence and industrial relations with the recipient country; regional peace and stability, including civil conflict; and the human rights situation, including trends (i.e. are there signs of improvement or is the situation deteriorating?). Careful attention is also paid to end-use documentation to ensure the goods are indeed going to a legitimate end user and will not be diverted.

Canada imposes strict controls over the export of firearms, particularly automatic or assault weapons which are allowed to be exported only on a government-to-government basis to a small group of 13 countries with which Canada has concluded intergovernmental defence, research, development and production agreements. These countries, which make up the Automatic Firearms Country Control List (AFCCL), are listed in Annex 1.

The vast bulk of firearms export applications do not involve such modern military weapons, but rather firearms that are controlled only because they fall under the Wassenaar definition. Often these weapons will in fact be used for sporting purposes (such as hunting and target shooting) or are World War I or World War II firearms sought by collectors and re-enactors. All require permits, and for most destinations the Minister is consulted. Because many of these Canadian firearms are exported to private end users, we want to satisfy ourselves that they do not slip into the illegal arms trade