

CANADIAN INTERPRETATION OF REGISTER DEFINITIONS

General

The types and quantities of equipment reported in the Register follow the guidelines that were developed by the Panel of Governmental Technical Experts on the Register of Conventional Arms established under United Nations Resolution 46/36 L. The recommendations of the technical experts are contained in UN A/47/342, 14 Aug 1992.

In general, Canada attempts to interpret the Register definitions in the spirit in which they were conceived; namely, to promote transparency concerning conventional arms transfers, holdings, and procurement. Thus, Canada believes that it is very important that any equipment listings included in national submissions, which fall outside of the specification guidelines of the Register, should be **clearly annotated** to avoid confusion. In short, we believe that clarity of data is an important component of transparency.

In the following paragraphs, the Register's definitions are provided, followed by the Canadian interpretation of those definitions and/or any relevant comments.

International Transfers

With respect to international transfers, the Register asks each nation to include **only** data on the number of items in the specified categories of equipment imported into and exported from its territory in the previous calendar year. To be reported are **only** those transfers considered by the nation to have been effected during the relevant reporting year, in conformity with their respective national criterion used to determine when a transfer becomes effective. The general interpretation of the latter criteria is that, in most cases, the data on arms transfers is valid for the register only after delivery has taken place.

Because these statements are vague, and invite the possibility of ambiguities, numerous inconsistencies can appear in the final report. In fact, using the actual delivery of an item as a benchmark usually introduces ambiguities because transportation and customs clearance often extend this process over several months.

Canadian Register submissions include information on equipment specified in the Register categories whose **legal title was transferred within the relevant reporting year**. As far as Canada is concerned, the date of title transfer is the date on which an international transfer becomes effective regardless of the actual location of the equipment at that time.