

EXPORT CRITERIA

- The majority of small arms and light weapons are legally produced, transferred or sold and only later in their life cycle enter into illicit circulation.
- In order to deal effectively with the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, we must therefore tackle the nexus where legal weapons become illegal ones.
- Export criteria help governments to codify and clarify the conditions under which export sales will be permitted, helping in turn both to combat illicit diversion/trafficking and to prevent the destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALW.
- Canada believes that the application of strict export controls, including comprehensive criteria for export, over the transfer of small arms and light weapons can serve to prevent the illicit trade in these weapons.
- Canada currently operates strict export controls over the transfer of conventional weapons.