

11. How are foreign policy and defence considerations used in assessing an application?

Experts from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Department of National Defence, Industry Canada and Canada's intelligence agencies look at many foreign policy and defence factors before offering their recommendations.

These analysts offer their insights into the overall relationship between Canada and the recipient country. They do this because Canadian export permit decisions can send messages to a country, opening or closing channels of constructive dialogue. For example, these decisions can help to show Canada's support for a country that is making progress toward more democratic systems and practices. Such messages can be important foreign policy tools.

Experts offer their views on the organization that is proposing to import the product. They establish the likely uses of the product. While buyers are often government departments and agencies, they may be private companies or individuals. Government analysts will try to discover links to third countries to establish if diversion is likely. They may have intelligence about the possible illicit use or diversion of goods that could fuel domestic or international friction.

The experts offer their views on the likely, as well as potential, military uses of the product and the military and internal security situation in the recipient country. They determine whether a military good has largely offensive or non-offensive uses. They take the potential impacts on Canada and its allies into account. They ensure that the export is consistent with domestic defence needs and interests.

Analysts consider the international situation in the region of the globe to which the export would be sent. They consider any conflicts that are taking place or that seem possible and determine if the proposed export would have any potential influence or impact. For example, the proposed export could introduce new military technology into a region or assist one country in gaining military advantage over another with which it has a serious border dispute.