

Working with Other Countries

18. Why doesn't Canada control the export of goods that are built in foreign countries using Canadian components?

Canada has always resisted foreign attempts to force Canadian companies to abide by foreign laws and practices, when carrying out legal business in Canada. This is consistent with international law.

Canada's policies on military goods exports respect this same principle. The federal government controls exports of military and dual-use goods from Canadian territory. It does not try to control exports from other countries (even if some of the components may come from Canada) and it understands that no other country would permit Canada to impose its laws and regulations on the other country's sovereign rights.

It is important to point out that the vast majority of Canadian military goods exports go to countries that apply similar criteria to their own controlled goods exports. This provides a level of comfort that substantially "like-minded" countries will review military goods exports that contain Canadian-built components. Where these conditions are less obvious, the greatest degree of screening is implemented.