

Canada is also a signatory to several international agreements that provide for some controls on the export of ammunition. Thirty-three countries⁵⁷ are current members of the Wassenaar Arrangement. The aim of the Wassenaar Arrangement is to ensure that goods and technologies designed for military use or dual-use technologies with civilian and military use are not shipped to areas where regional military stability would be undermined. The intent is to contribute to regional and international security by promoting transparency and responsibility in selling such goods. It would appear that the potential of the Wassenaar Arrangement to control seriously small arms and ammunition transfers is marginal given its terms of reference and the subjective nature of defining destabilizing as it relates to small arms and ammunition. As well, the Wassenaar Arrangement is identified as a "discriminatory supply side regime" by many developing countries, some of which have a substantial ammunition producing capability themselves. It would seem that any agreement that is exclusive in nature and supply-side oriented would have minimal success in controlling access to ammunition.

The Organization of American States (OAS) Convention Against Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives and Other Related Material, hereafter identified as the OAS Convention, shows more promise as a method of controlling the illegal or illicit export and transfer of ammunition. Signed in November 1997, the OAS Convention is a regional effort to control the illicit manufacturing and trafficking in firearms, ammunition and explosives. It requires signatories to carry out among other things the following:

- adopt legislation to criminalize under their domestic law all aspects of illicit manufacturing and trafficking in firearms, ammunition and explosives;
- mark firearms in accordance with several criteria for both domestic use and especially for export;⁵⁸
- take unspecified security measures regarding the materials in question;
- establish effective export, import and transit licenses or authorizations;
- strengthen controls at export points;
- maintain records to trace and identify illicit materials as defined in the Convention;
- exchange information on all aspects of illicit activities; and
- provide technical assistance and exchange experience and training.

⁵⁷ It is significant that many of the major ammunition producing countries are members of Wassenaar. Of the 33 Wassenaar states at least half are major exporters of ammunition or components including ammunition factories under licence. Most of the remaining states have some form of ammunition production capability.

⁵⁸ It should be noted that there are no marking requirements for ammunition. Included in the ammunition definition are cartridge cases, primers, propellant powder and bullets.