

10. What are the checks and balances that ensure Canadian goods are exported appropriately?

The export control process involves a broad analysis that can take up to several weeks to complete. A range of experts throughout Canada's federal government assess each application individually. They draw on different kinds of expertise and information as they contribute to a recommendation to the Minister of Foreign Affairs that reflects the overall best interests of Canadians.

When a company wants to export a product that it believes is controlled, it submits an application to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT). DFAIT makes a technical assessment to determine if the proposed export requires a permit or not. This initial step involves a review by specialists, including engineers, who determine how the product fits within Canada's classification system for controlled military and dual-use goods and technologies. These specialists also consider the product in terms of its likely applications and the military capabilities of the proposed end user.

If the proposed export is subject to military goods export controls, different branches within DFAIT, the Department of National Defence, Industry Canada and other agencies are asked for their specialized advice on the probable impact of the proposed export. Their contributions are the core of the screening process.