

Canada's Export Control Process

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What is Canada's policy on military goods exports?

Canada has a strong commitment to building international peace and security. This includes support for arms control and disarmament agreements such as the historic Anti-personnel Mines Convention. Between December 1997, when it was opened for signature in Ottawa, and October 1998, 131 countries signed this Convention. Canada is also a strong supporter of the Wassenaar Arrangement and other international agreements to regulate exports of military goods.

Canada's legal basis for export controls is the Export and Import Permits Act (EIPA). The Minister of Foreign Affairs is responsible to Parliament for the EIPA. The Export Controls Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade administers Canadian policies and procedures related to controlled goods and technologies, including military goods, on behalf of the Minister.

Canada's military goods export control policy also reflects the substantial integration of the Canadian and U.S. defence industry that began during the Second World War. This close relationship enables many Canadian companies to succeed in a very competitive environment, supplying components to American defence producers and the U.S. armed forces on a permit-free basis, to the benefit of the Canadian economy and Canadians in general. Canadian firms also import U.S. components for their own defence production, which directly supports the Canadian Forces.

The federal government takes steps, described in detail over the next few pages, so that Canada's military goods export policies mesh coherently with other policies that ensure national defence, protect international security, promote trade and foster international human rights norms.