

Military Exports

QUESTION

What is Canada's position on the export of military goods? How can the Canadian government be sure that sales are not affecting "human rights or regional conflicts"?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- Goods specifically designed or modified for military use require an export permit from the imminent threat of hostilities, or countries, whose governments have a persistent record of serious violations of the human rights of their citizens, unless it can be demonstrated that there is no reasonable risk that the goods might be used against the civilian population.
- Canadian military exports, to a great extent, consist of support systems such as simulators, radars, and computer systems or a wide variety of spare parts.
- Applications for export permits for military goods are subject to an extensive process of analysis and consultation, generally involving the Department of National Defence and Industry Canada as well as the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. Within DFAIT, consultations include: the respective geographical divisions; Human Rights Division; Regional Security and Peacekeeping Division; and Sectoral Trade Development Division. The purpose of the consultation is to judge compliance with the current policy.
- The approval of the Minister of Foreign Affairs is required for the export of all offensive military goods and technology, unless they are destined to a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) ally or to a small group of specified like-minded countries. In the case of non-offensive military goods and technology, the Minister is also consulted, if any of the above-mentioned criteria apply.