

16. What measures are used to ensure that Canadian exporters comply with the law?

A relatively small number of companies in Canada sell and export products that are covered under the military goods export control policy. They know that Revenue Canada — Customs can seize the goods of exporters who are suspected of violating the Export and Import Permits Act (EIPA). Corporate directors and officers are liable for their companies' illegal activities. They face severe financial penalties and even imprisonment if they are found guilty of violating the EIPA. They can face additional penalties under the Customs Act. As a result, most cases of non-compliance prove to be simple oversights or are relatively minor.

However, some people may try to evade the law entirely by attempting to export controlled military and dual-use goods without permits. Others may try to route controlled military goods from other countries, through Canada, to countries that do not show a commitment to international peace and security, or human rights and democracy.

Revenue Canada — Customs polices the export of controlled goods in many ways. Enforcement officers in Canada use sophisticated techniques to detect potential violations. They check ports and airports to confirm that shipments match permits. Revenue Canada — Customs works with customs agencies in other countries to confirm that documents and importers are authorized and legitimate. An Industrial Awareness Program teaches Canadian exporters about export controls and how to work within the rules.

Federal departments and agencies work closely with their counterparts in other countries to identify and stop these attempts to evade export controls. Information from intelligence systems helps to alert officials to questionable importers and countries with insufficient controls.