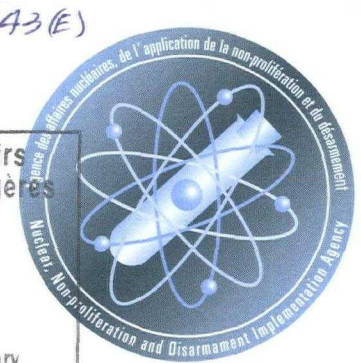


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# Information Series

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## CANADA AND THE NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP

Canada

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It was in the environment of the mid-70s that the major nuclear suppliers of the time met in London in an effort to reach agreement on "guidelines" covering their nuclear exports. This meeting, held in 1975, was convened largely in response to a Canadian and United States initiative; the other countries present were the Former Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, France, Germany and Japan. The resulting Guidelines for Nuclear Transfers, augmenting existing non-proliferation principles, clearly represented a high-point in international cooperation. The Guidelines of Nuclear Transfers apply to transfers to any non-nuclear weapon State and generally deal with the prohibition of nuclear explosives, the requirement of effective physical protection of nuclear material and facilities, the application of International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, additional special controls on sensitive exports, controls on retransfer to a third party, and adherence to non-proliferation principles.

Despite the vehement protest the Guidelines provoked at first because many non-aligned states regarded them as unwarranted restrictions on international nuclear commerce, these clearly were not designed to create a nuclear export cartel. They were the result of a growing awareness of existing weaknesses in national export policies and introduced the concept of export controls into the fight against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Adhering states were fully aware of the need to contribute to

economic development while avoiding contributing in any way to the dangers of proliferation, and the need to remove non-proliferation assurances from the field of commercial competition.

More work needed to be done by the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). The next period began with a meeting in The Hague of the now 26 adherent countries in 1991. The Gulf War gave impetus to the establishment of an area which needed reinforcing, namely the export control of nuclear-related dual-use items. The resulting Guidelines for Nuclear-related Dual-use Transfers generally deal with the prohibition of nuclear explosives, the

application of safeguards, adherence to non-proliferation measures, the appropriateness of procurement activities, controls on retransfer to a third party, and end-use assurances.

Currently, thirty-four countries are members of the NSG (35 members with EURATOM - see Table). Factors taken into account for membership are: the ability to supply items (including items in transit), adherence with existing Guidelines, enforcement of a legally based domestic export control system, adherence to non-proliferation international/regional conventions/agreements, and, support for international non-proliferation efforts.

### NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP MEMBER COUNTRIES

In 1975	As of 1992
Canada	Austria
The United States	Bulgaria
Former Soviet Union – The Russian Federation	Danemark
The United Kingdom	Greece
France	Hungary
Germany	Ireland
Japan	Norway
	Portugal
	Spain
	Australia
	Luxembourg
As of 1978	As of 1998
Netherlands	Ukraine
Belgium	The Republic of Korea
Sweden	South Africa
Switzerland	Argentina
Czechoslovakia – Slovakia, the Czech Republic	New Zealand
Italy	Brazil
Poland	Latvia
Romania	

**Membership Currently Under Review** Turkey, Kazakhstan, Cyprus





In Canada, the NSG Guidelines and trigger items generally are adopted under two Acts: the Export and Import Permits Act administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and the Atomic Energy Control Act administered by the Atomic Energy Control Board. Officials from both organizations, including officials of the Nuclear, Non-proliferation and Disarmament Implementation Agency, continue to participate actively in NSG yearly activities which include information exchanges and on-going review of the Guidelines and trigger items.

The NSG is a group of nuclear supplier countries which seeks to contribute to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons through the implementation of two sets of guidelines for nuclear exports and nuclear-related dual-use exports. The commitment of NSG members to rigorous conditions of supply, in the context of the further development of the applications of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, makes the NSG an important part of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime, in which Canada continues to be an active participant.

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