Export Control Considerations for International Travel

Some of your research activities or discussions in other countries may be subject to US Government export control regulations. Failure to comply with these regulations can lead to severe penalties.

Please note that most international travel does not raise export control concerns. Use the information below to determine if your trip will require an export control review.

Please contact the Export Control Office (see contacts below) if you have questions.

**WHY Are You Going**

- **Foreign Conferences** – Consider the content of your talk.
  - It is OK to present results of fundamental research or previously published information.
  - **Fundamental research** is basic or applied research in the sciences or engineering at an accredited institution of higher learning the results of which will be published or distributed widely to the scientific community.
  - Do NOT present Export Controlled (ITAR or EAR) information at international conferences.

- **Meeting with Foreign Collaborators to Conduct or Discuss Research**
  - Except in the context of defense services discussed below, no license is required to (1) discuss public domain information, or (2) conduct fundamental research.
  - Licenses may be required to conduct or discuss research (1) that is proprietary, (2) has a potential military application, (3) involving dual use items (commercial items that could have a military or national security application), or (4) involving Dual Use Research of Concern (DURC).

- **Defense Services** – Furnishing assistance to foreign persons in the design, development, engineering, manufacture, production, assembly, testing, repair, maintenance, modification, operation, demilitarization, destruction, processing or use of **defense articles** (items controlled under ITAR).
Defense services include training, analysis and troubleshooting and require an export license, even if the information is all in the public domain.

**WHO Are You Meeting?**

- Persons/Organizations – The federal government maintains lists of parties with which it does not want us collaborating. These lists can contain universities, persons, companies, distributors, and manufacturers.
  - You can find a consolidated list of restricted persons/organizations at export.gov at the link below or contact the Export Control Office.

**WHAT Are You Taking With You?**

- Export Controlled Equipment, Materials, Software and Technology – Items such as electronics, lasers, lab equipment, chemicals and microbial samples may be export controlled and require a license prior to taking them out of the country.
- Encryption – Encryption software and instruments containing encryption technology are export controlled.
  - Most general use encryption software, like that used in Microsoft operating systems is not an issue to take outside the country.
  - Some countries restrict encryption entering their country. Please review the foreign country’s requirements regarding encryption to ensure your equipment is not confiscated.
- Laptops, Tablets, Smart Phones – Only take what you absolutely need when traveling. Information and data on electronic devices can be mirrored by outside persons and copied without you knowing in almost any country. Use a VPN, strong passwords on all devices and accounts, and physically keep items on your person as much as possible.
  - Consider checking out a “clean” laptop or tablet when traveling internationally.
- Customs and Border Protection has the right to request passwords to all electronic devices when re-entering the United States. Ensure that all information you do not want them to see is off your devices prior to returning.

**Contact Information**

John Jay Miller, Interim Director of the Research Security Program – JJMiller36@wisc.edu
Bethany Nelson, UW-Madison Export Control Manager – bcnelson2@grad.wisc.edu 261-1128
Ben Griffiths, UW-Madison Senior Legal Counsel – ben.griffiths@wisc.edu 263-7400
E-mail: exportcontrol@grad.wisc.edu
UW-Madison Export Control Website