

Export control awareness newsletter April 2013 (accessible)

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Success for first Export Control Symposium

ALMOST 200 exporters gathered to hear Business Minister Michael Fallon open the UK's first-ever Export Control Symposium. Edward Bell, Head of the Export Control Organisation, described the event as a "great opportunity for listening and learning".

"Reaching out to business is a core activity for the Export Control Organisation," Edward said. "By forging an effective partnership with exporters we can raise awareness and improve our service. It's also important for exporters to become more intelligent customers."

The Export Control Organisation (ECO) is the part of BIS that issues licences for the export of strategic goods and items. These are military goods such as weapons and missiles and also 'dual-use' goods – civilian goods with potential military use or application.

Welcoming 194 business delegates to the event in the 1 Victoria Street

Conference Centre on Tuesday 19 March, Michael Fallon took the opportunity to announce a new 'secondary' target that will see 99 per cent of licence applications processed within 60 days. The Government aims to deliver it by the middle of this year.

The day continued with the opportunity for exporters to take part in no less than 11 workshops, covering a comprehensive range of topics relating to export control.

These included how Whitehall Departments (Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Cabinet Office, Ministry of Defence, Department for International Development, Department for Energy and Climate Change) measure risks associated with the potential export. For example, security, human rights, economic sustainability and taking part in the decision making process.

Other advisers (e.g. the Aerospace, Defence and Security sector trade association) covered US Export Controls, the business impact of anti-bribery', the work of UKTI DSO, international freight and financial assistance for exports.

The event was arranged by the ECO's Business Awareness unit led by Claire Harrison and in partnership with an industry and cross-Whitehall Steering Group.

Edward Bell

Edward has a background in both public and private sectors.

He has worked for the Department for Business (BIS) and its predecessors for more than nine years and also in the Department for Energy and Climate Change, leading on business planning.

Edward joins the Export Control Organisation from UK Trade & Investment, where he worked on both policy and organisational capability.

Before joining the Civil Service, Edward worked in the travel business for around fifteen years, in various roles around Europe as an airline station manager. His last private sector job before joining the Civil Service was as Director of Customer Services for Eurostar.

Enhanced SPIRE will benefit exporters

As part of the Export Control Organisation's ongoing Service Improvement Programme, a number of changes have been made to the SPIRE system that will enhance its effectiveness and streamline the process of making export licence applications for exporters.

These were recent major enhancements that will let you know exactly what is happening with your SPIRE application and the stage it has reached. If you haven't used SPIRE for a while, changes include:

NEW HINT ICONS

A hint icon will appear next to the Case Officer's name for applications in the SPIRE user's workbasket. When 'hovered' over, this will display the Licensing Unit Case Officer's telephone number. For Control List Classification Enquiries, the Technical Assessment Unit (TAU) enquiry number will be displayed. For 'End User Advice Enquiries', the ECO helpline number will be displayed.

EXPORTER CASE STATUS ENHANCEMENTS

For all licence application types, 'ECO Processing' status has been replaced with:

- 'Receipt & Initial Checks' to cover receipt in Licence Reception and preliminary checks.
- 'Technical Assessment', which indicates it is being assessed against the strategic export control lists.
- 'LU Processing' to cover all Licensing Unit activity.

The date of the latest case status change is displayed alongside the status in all cases.

MANDATORY CHANGES

- The 'Return Date' question on temporary applications is now mandatory.
- SPIRE Users will no longer have the ability to choose 'Named Individual for this application' with regard to 'relationship to the licensee' if the proposed licensee is an 'Organisation'. This will ensure that applications are submitted by the correct signatory.
- 'United Kingdom' and 'Vessel or Platform in International Waters' as a permitted destination has been restricted to specific application types.

EXTRA FACILITIES WITH LINKS TO KEY RESOURCES

The 'Help' option in the User workbasket now includes a list of guidance documents.

The 'Supporting Documents' screen within an individual application now contains a link to 'End-User Undertaking (EUU)' guidance.

Exporters will have the option to enable case status notifications, which will send an email whenever their application status changes.

Maritime anti-piracy documentation service launched

A reminder that the new chargeable service to provide the documentation required by a number of Port States in the Indian Ocean regarding Maritime Anti-Piracy services provided by UK Private Security Companies has been launched.

UK Private Security Companies (PSCs) told us that they are facing problems getting their controlled equipment into Mauritius, whose Government is requesting a 'certificate' to the effect that PSCs possess all the necessary

HMG licences, and they are not accepting an electronic record (our licences are issued electronically via SPIRE). It's quite possible that other Governments will follow suit, so we have designed a set of certificates:

- an Approval Certificate for use of the Open General Trade Control Licence (Maritime Anti-Piracy Licence)
- a Maritime Anti-Piracy Certificate

that should satisfy these Governments' documentation requirements for UK PSCs. Each set will be produced in hard copy and sealed and signed. This service will be provided on a commercial service for PSCs, based on recovering the costs of producing the certificates.

Read the Notice to Exporters on this topic.

Upgraded telephone helpline system

As part of the Service Improvement Programme set up to examine how ECO can make changes to enhance service delivery for our customers, we have upgraded our telephone helpline system.

This change has allowed us to clarify the options that you hear when calling our helpline (0207 215 4594) and enable us to put you through to the person best suited to answer your enquiry.

We have also added the facility to transfer calls directly to HMRC – for information about shipments detained, and MOD – for information about F680 applications.

This should mean reduced waiting time. When you're waiting for a response, we will tell you where you are in the call queue and give you the option to leave a message if you prefer.

The service improvement team will monitor the effectiveness of the new system to ensure that calls are answered promptly and efficiently.

International policy

EU/SYRIA

The EU has renewed, with some amendments, its sanctions against Syria for a further three months. The scope of those changes is set out in [Council Decision 2013/109/CFSP](#) of 28 February 2013. Detailed implementing measures will be contained in a Council Regulation.

There has been no change in UK export licensing policy with respect to Syria.

NORTH KOREA

The United Nations has agreed two further rounds of sanctions against North Korea following its recent missile and nuclear tests - UNSCR 2087 (2013) and

UNSCR 2094 (2013). EU legislation implementing these new sanctions is in preparation.

SOMALIA

The United Nations has also agreed to amend the arms embargo against Somalia - UNSCR 2093 (2013). Again, EU legislation implementing these changes is in preparation.

EU/DUAL-USE

The European Commission has finally published a [summary of responses](#) to its public consultation on possible changes to the EU's system of export controls on dual-use items which ran from July to October 2011.

International – continued:

You can also read the public [consultation document](#) ('Green Paper') itself. Read the [UK Government's formal response](#) to the Green Paper.

Export Control Training Bulletin No 10 published

The latest edition of the Export Control Organisation's Training Bulletin for the period March – August 2013 contains full details of courses, seminars and workshops that will increase your understanding of the UK's strategic export controls.

The bulletin includes all details, charges and an application form.

Download [Export Control Training Bulletin No 10](#).

ECO Beginners' Course Assessment Module

In association with Cranfield University we have developed an assessment module for delegates who attend ECO's Beginners' training course.

The module is hosted on the [Cranfield University](#) website.

It comprises a series of ten random multiple choice questions that aim to test learning following attendance on the course.

Export Control Managers will find the feedback helps their understanding of export controls. It will also help us improve and develop the Beginners course.

ECO is planning to introduce an assessment module for further courses, including the Intermediate course.

Nationwide training for exporters

ECO's training courses – designed to extend the knowledge and awareness of all exporters about their legal responsibilities – take place in a range of venues around the country.

Planned events for 2013 include:

- Beginner's Workshop (London) 7 May
- Beginner's Workshop, Intermediate Seminar (Southampton) 6 – 7 June
- Beginner's Workshop, Intermediate Seminar (Leeds) 9 – 10 July
- Making Better Licence Applications (Aberdeen) 29 August

For a complete list of events, download the latest [Training Bulletin](#) for the full list.

Notices to Exporters

Subscribe to receive ECO's [Notices to Exporters](#) to keep up with latest updates about strategic export control including new OGLs, amended legislation and much more.

Notices to Exporters you might have missed...

[Notice to Exporters 2013/06 – Open General Export Licence \(Military Goods, Software and Technology: Government or NATO End Use\)](#)

[Notice to Exporters 2013/07: Enhanced SPIRE features will benefit exporters](#)

[Notice to Exporters 2013/08: Updated Open General Export Licences for military and dual-use goods](#)

[Notice to Exporters 2013/09: Strategic export licensing and freight forwarders – clarification of guidance](#)

[Notice to Exporters 2013/10: Export Control \(Amendment\) Order 2013](#)

[Notice to Exporters 2013/11: Implementation of transparency in strategic export licensing](#)

[Notice to Exporters 2013/12: new undertaking template available for Open General Export Licence \(Military Goods, Software and Technology\)](#)

As part of the move to [GOV.UK](#), all Notices to Exporters prior to 21 November 2012 have been filed at the [National Archives](#).

Contact details

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