



Ministry  
of Defence



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Thank you for your email dated 27 April 2017. You asked:

***Could you please provide me with your Demilitarization Coding,***

***I would also like to know if any items that are passed to the Disposal Services Agency require to be de-militarised?***

***What Licenses do a company need to hold to undertake the task of: Total destruction of item and components so as to preclude restoration or repair to a usable condition by melting, cutting, tearing, scratching, crushing, breaking, punching, neutralizing, etc. For component elements such as electronic equipment associated with a weapon.***

***If a company were to undertake the task of scrapping items as mentioned above would they require to hold a license for section 5 Firearms Act***

I am treating your email as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

It might be helpful if I first explained that the Disposal Services Authority (DSA), part of MOD, disposes of Defence equipment that is surplus to requirement. For functioning and viable large capital assets such as ships or aircraft, the first option that is usually considered is the possibility of selling to other governments for continued use in a military capacity. This has the benefit of strengthening international relationships and can provide UK industry with opportunities to undertake some of the regeneration work and after sales support.

When a Government-to-Government sale is not possible, the equipment is offered for commercial sale, for continued use either in a non-military capacity or for recycling. With the exception of warships, which are sold directly by the DSA, most surplus equipment is sold through a series of competitively awarded marketing agreements with specialist contractors.

These marketing agreements are structured to not only encourage the commercial partner to achieve the highest possible level of return from sale but to provide a cost free disposal service to the Department, with costs and profit only being recoverable on completion of sale.

The DSA routinely receives equipment that has been demilitarized but it does not have any form of de-militarization coding. It is the responsibility of holding units to ensure that any equipment declared surplus to requirement, where appropriate, has been demilitarized. Items requiring such action include small arms, items that fall within the bailiwick of the International Traffic in Arms Regulations and classified equipment.

The DSA specialist contractor is required to hold all necessary International Organization for Standardization Accreditations, waste and environmental licences and undertake such action in accordance with DSA procedures; items going through the process will either be fragmented or mutilated. At the end of the process a certificate of destruction is issued. The DSA contractor does have a Section 5 Firearms Certificate.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely

  
DE&S Secretariat