Department for
Business, Innovation,
Science and Trade

Open General Export Licence

Military Goods, Software and Technology

October 2026

Open General Export Licence (Military Goods, Software and Technology)
Dated 14 October 2026

The Secretary of State grants this Open General Export Licence under article 26 of the Export Control Order 2008[1].

Section 1. Purpose

(1) The purpose of this Open General Export Licence (OGEL) is to allow the export or transfer of goods, software or technology from the United Kingdom to any of the destinations or countries listed in this licence. This includes government, NATO and commercial end-users, and covers re- exporting goods, software or technology to and from permitted destinations, even if they have been incorporated into other products. This OGEL will mainly be used by exporters who supply military goods, software and technology to government, NATO or commercial end-users in the listed destinations.

(2) However, as with any OGEL, there are limits to what it covers. It is limited to a number of low-risk destinations. Some goods, software and technology are excluded and you will have to provide certain documents before exporting the components, and keep records so that the Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade (BIST) can carry out audits to confirm you have used the OGEL correctly. If you fail to use this OGEL correctly BIST may suspend or withdraw your authorisation to use this licence.

(3) You should only register to use this licence if you have fully considered the terms and conditions that follow and are able to meet them **all**.

Section 2. Goods, software and technology you can export or transfer under this licence

(1) The description of the goods, software or technology listed in the table below has the same meaning as those described in Schedule 2 (Military Goods) of the Export Control Order 2008 as amended.

(2) You may only export or transfer any of the goods, software or technology listed in the first column unless we tell you otherwise in the second column.

[1] SI 2008/3231 as amended

Rating	Covers
ML4 a. ML4 b.1.	All goods under this category, but not including: 1. anti-personnel landmines, and specially designed components of these goods; 2. anti-vehicle mines, and specially designed components of these goods; 3. complete Man Portable Air Defence Systems (*MANPADS*) (with or without missiles, including related launching equipment and rockets) and specially designed components of these goods; 4. missiles for *MANPADS* (including missiles which can be used without modification in other applications); 5. *cluster munitions*, *explosive bomblets*, *explosive sub-munitions*, and specially designed components of these goods; or 6. rockets, missiles capable of a range of at least 300 km, and the following components which can be used in these goods. a. Individual rocket stages b. Rocket engines c. Thrust vector control systems d. Weapon or warhead safing, arming, fuzing and firing components e. Re-entry vehicles, and the following components of these goods. i. Heat shields and components of these goods ii. Heat sinks and components of these goods 7. Electronic equipment for re-entry vehicles
ML 4c.	All goods under this category.
ML5	All goods under this category.
ML6	All goods under this category, but not including: • complete vehicles.
ML7g.	As it relates to ML7d. **However, you may not export these goods if they are to be sent to armed forces stationed outside an allowed destination or country. See 4(2).**
ML9	All goods under this category, but not including: • complete vessels. • Naval nuclear propulsion equipment and specially designed components therefor.
ML10	All goods under this category, but not including: • complete aircraft; or • complete unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and any components specially designed or modified for UAVs.
ML11	All goods under this category, but not including: • any items relating to goods whose export is not allowed in this table; • guidance sets capable of achieving a system accuracy of3.33% or less of the range, that can be used in rockets or missiles capable of a range of at least 300 km; or • test equipment for *MANPAD* systems.
ML13 c.	All goods under these categories.
ML 13 d.	All goods under these categories.

ML14	All goods under this category, but not including: • training equipment for *MANPADS*.
ML15	All goods under this category.
ML16	All goods under this category, but not including: • any items relating to goods whose export is not allowed in this table.
ML17	All goods under this category, but not including: • ML17 f and 17 g, and specially designed components of these goods; or • ML17.n and specially designed components of these goods, as long as they are for use in connection with *cluster munitions*, *explosive sub-munitions* and *explosive bomblets*.
ML18	All goods under this category, but not including: • production equipment for: a. MANPAD systems; b. anti-personnel landmines; or c. *cluster munitions*, *explosive sub-munitions* and *explosive bomblets*.
Ml21a, ML21b.1, ML21b.4, ML21b.5, ML21c, ML21d	All goods under this category, but not including software for:- • any items relating to goods whose export is not allowed in this table or • developing or updating software embedded in military weapon systems **You may not export software controlled in ML21 if it relates to ML7g and is to be sent to armed forces stationed outside a destination or country allowed under this licence. See 4(2).**
ML22	All goods under this category, but not including technology for: • any items relating to goods whose export is not allowed in this table; or • source code, if the source code relates to software whose export is not allowed in this table. You may not export technology controlled in ML22 if it relates to ML7g and is to be sent to armed forces stationed outside a destination or country allowed under this licence. See 4 (2).

Note: The goods, software and technology shown above in italics are defined in the glossary.

Section 3. Countries or destinations allowed under this licence

(1) Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, USA.

Note: The UK is included as a destination for goods, software or technology which have been initially exported from the UK to one of the destinations listed above and

are then re-exported to the United Kingdom after being incorporated into other products.

(2) Brunei, Chile, Cyprus, Jordan, Kuwait, Malta, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Oman.

(3) You must not export or transfer goods, software or technology to a 'customs free zone'. A 'customs free zone' is a part of the territory of a country where any goods introduced are generally regarded, as far as import duties and taxes are concerned, as being outside the customs territory of that country, and so the usual customs controls do not apply.

Section 4. Who you can export goods, software and technology to;

You must only export or transfer goods, software or technology:

(1) to any end-user as long as they are in one of the countries or destinations listed in section 3(1); or

(2) to the government of a destination listed in section 3(1) to be re-exported to their own armed forces deployed in any destination except a destination referred to in section 9(2) of this licence, as long as those items are for use only by those armed forces and do not fall within entry ML7.g. in Schedule 2 to the Export Control Order or within entries ML21 or ML22 as they relate to entry ML7.g; or

(3) to the armed forces of a destination listed in section 3(1) of this licence that are deployed outside that destination, as long as those items are for use only by those armed forces and do not fall within entry ML7.g. in Schedule 2 to the Export Control Order or within entries ML21 or ML22 as they relate to entry ML7.g.; or

(4) for the end use of governments of countries or NATO organisations listed in Section 3 (2), as long as they have been re-exported from destinations listed in Section 3 (1).

Section 5. Other restrictions that apply

(1) You must not export or transfer goods, software or technology to be incorporated into other goods, software or technology that are to be exported, re-exported or transferred to a person or company in a country or destination other than one specified in section 3 of this licence. You must make sure that you keep to any relevant project security instruction (PSI).

(2) Security classified goods, software and technology

a. You must only export or transfer goods, software and technology that has a security classification of OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE or above (including UK material classified RESTRICTED or above, graded prior to 2 April 2014, and internationally security classified material), if you have the correct written approval. The different types of approval are explained below.

i. If the export is in support of any sub-contracting or collaboration activity which directly contributes towards a United Kingdom Government defence contract, a Ministry of Defence approval has to be provided by one of the following means, and you must keep a record of any written letter of clearance given for inspection as described in sections 8 (1) a – d:

1. the 'F1686' (Application to sub-contract or collaborate with an overseas contractor on work involving OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE and above classified information) procedure. The F1686 procedure, and how to obtain an approval, is described in the Security Policy Framework issued by the Cabinet Office (and included in the UK Government OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE Security Conditions). More information is available from the MOD Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) Principal Security Advisor; or

2. the UK MOD Contracting Authority for the work that the export relates to under a letter delegating authority up to an OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE level to an identified company Security Controller to approve the export; or

3. any written letter of approval as identified in any applicable Project Security Instructions (PSI) approved by collaborating partner nations governments;

or

ii. If the export is not in support of any sub-contracting or collaboration activity which directly contributes towards a United Kingdom Government defence contract, approval has to be provided by the MOD Form 680 procedure. You may only export these goods, software and technology to the named end-user stated in the MOD Form 680 and you will need to keep a record of that end-user for inspection as described in sections 8 (1) a – g. You can apply for a MOD Form 680 through this link F680 Policy and Guidance - GOV.UK

b. For goods, software and technology classified CONFIDENTIAL, for material classified by the UK prior to 2 April 2014 or internationally

security classified CONFIDENTIAL-equivalent material, or SECRET or above, you will need a current written approval for a Security Transportation Plan. A Security Transportation Plan approval can be obtained from MOD Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) Principal Security Advisor. More information is available from the Principal Security Advisor (please see below for their contact details).

Note: To apply for Security Transportation Plan approval, or F1686 approval for material classified CONFIDENTIAL by the UK prior to 2 April 2014 or internationally security classified CONFIDENTIAL-equivalent material, or SECRET or above, please contact:

Defence Equipment & Support (DE&S)
Principal Security Advisor
Security
Advice Centre
Poplar - 1
MOD Abbey
Wood Bristol,
BS34 8JH
Tel: 030 67934378
Fax: 030 67934925

e-mail: ISAC-Group@mod.gov.uk

To apply for F1686 approval for material classified OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE (including UK material classified RESTRICTED, graded prior to 2 April 2014, and internationally security classified material please contact your Ministry of Defence Contracting Authority using the details on the applicable Security Aspects Letter for the work.

c. You must not transfer software or technology electronically that has been classified OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE or above (including UK material classified RESTRICTED or above, graded prior to 2 April 2014, and internationally security classified material) unless:

i. the method of transmission is protected by encryption appropriate to the classification of the data; and

ii. you hold any necessary clearance from a government accreditation authority and you can make the clearance document available for inspection by any person authorised by the Secretary of State.

(3) Weapons of mass destruction (WMD)

a. You must not export or transfer all or part of goods, software or technology if you are aware or suspect they may be used, in whole or in part, for a WMD purpose. You may become aware of, or suspect, this in the following ways:

i. The Secretary of State tells you.

ii. You are already aware of this intended use.

iii. You have grounds for suspecting that the goods, software or technology may be used for this purpose unless you have made all reasonable enquiries about what the goods or software will be used for, and are satisfied that they will not be used for a WMD purpose.

(4) The Secretary of State has the power to vary or withdraw export licences at any time. If you do not use this licence within any 24-month period for an export allowed by this licence, your entitlement to use it will automatically run out at the end of that 24-month period and your registration details will be removed from SPIRE. However, you can register for this licence again if you want to use it after your registration has ended.

Section 6. Actions you must take before exporting or transferring goods, software and technology under this licence

(1) You must be satisfied that you and the goods, software or technology you plan to export or transfer can meet all the requirements set out in this licence.

(2) Before using this licence, you must register through BIST's digital licensing system, SPIRE, stating where you will keep records of the exports or transfers and where BIST may inspect them.

(3) You must:

a. have an original undertaking (see Section 6.3 of the Glossary) from the person or entity (known as a consignee undertaking) receiving the goods, software or technology which confirms the export is for a permitted use (this undertaking must remain in force for the period of the contract); or

b. only in the case of contracts directly from a government in a destination listed in section 3 (1), or NATO, provide documents as evidence (for example, a purchase order, excerpt of contract) that include the contract number and the name of the goods, software or technology, that can be checked against the control list classification of the goods, software or technology being exported.

Note: The undertaking is only valid as long as the circumstances under which the undertaking was given have not changed or modified over that period, including:

- the details of the person or entity (consignee) receiving the goods, software or technology;
- the terms of the OGEL under which it was given;
- the destination of the goods, software or technology is not an embargoed destination; or
- for any reason which BIST considers should result in that undertaking no longer being valid.

DBT considers it best practice that end-user undertakings are renewed every 12 months.

(4) if you need to meet conditions in section 5 (2) a. and b. of this licence, you must also have written approval from the Ministry of Defence before exporting goods, software or technology.

Section 7. Actions you must take when exporting or transferring goods, software or technology under this licence

(1) For all physical exports of goods, software or technology, you must make sure that the commercial documents that go with the goods, software or technology include a declaration stating either:

a. 'the goods (software or technology) are being exported under the OGEL (Military Goods, Software and Technology)'; or
b. your SPIRE licence reference (in the form GBOGE 20??/????).

(2) You should present these documents to officials of UK Border Force when asked, together with the information and documents listed in section 8. (1) f. or g. below.
(3) Your licence reference in the form 'GBOGE 20XX/XXXXX' must be entered onto the UK's customs declarations system.

(4) You must update the 'Open licensing returns' within SPIRE, for all exports or trade carried out within each calendar year. You must update the returns by the last day of the following January at the latest (for example, you would need to update the January to December returns by the end of the following January) and include all the information required. You do not have to report on technology transfers.

Section 8. Records that you must keep

(1) You must keep the records as required under Article 29 of the Export Control Order 2008 as well as the following records relating to exporting or transferring goods and software under this licence for four years and you must make them available for any person authorised by the Secretary of State to inspect.

a. The original undertaking (see section 6.3 of the Glossary) from the person or entity (consignee) receiving the goods, software or technology, or documents described in 6 (3) above (for example a purchase order or an excerpt of the contract).
b. The control list classification as per Schedule 2 of the Export Control Order.
c. Documents referred to in section 7 above that include either of the declarations described in section 7. (1) a or b.
d. The written approval from the Ministry of Defence, if this is needed to meet the requirements of sections 5 (2) a, b and c.

(2) For goods, software and technology which have any of the functions or characteristics of information security described in Category 5 Part 2 of Annex 1 to Council Regulation (EC) No.428/2009 (EUR 2009/428, as amended), every 12 months you must present a copy of the records set out in section 8(1) a, b and c above to a representative of the Secretary of State (in this case, the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) and send a copy to the ECJU) for inspection. You can contact the NCSC at the following email address:

export.returns@ncsc.gov.uk

Section 9. Other legal requirements

(1) You must complete, in full, the pre-visit questionnaire (PVQ) which you receive before an audit visit by DBT and return it by the date given in the letter that came with it.

(2) You must not export or transfer goods, software or technology if their use would be inconsistent with the terms of a United Nations (UN), Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) or any UK national arms embargo.

(3) As well as keeping to the requirements of this licence, you must also keep to any other relevant laws and acts which are in force. There may be restrictions or limits under other laws which apply when exporting these goods, software or technology.

Section 10. If you fail to meet the terms and conditions of this licence

(1) If, following an audit visit, BIST sends you a 'failure to comply' warning letter, you must take the steps set out in that letter and within the timescale given. If you do not do this, BIST may suspend or withdraw your authorisation to use this licence until you can satisfy BIST that you are able to meet the terms and conditions of this licence.

(2) DBT may suspend or withdraw this licence if you do not satisfy the requirements of all the terms and conditions of this licence. If this is the case, you may (along with anyone who has exported or transferred goods, software or technology for you) be prosecuted.

(3) You must not export or transfer goods, software or technology under this licence at any time once BIST has suspended or withdrawn your authorisation to use this licence by serving a notice on you under article 32(1) of the Export Control Order 2008.

Entry into Force

1. This licence shall come into force on 14 October 2026.

2. The Open General Export Licence (Military Goods, Software and Technology) dated 09 May 2025 is hereby revoked.

An Official of the Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade authorised to act on behalf of the Secretary of State.

Glossary

Expressions used in this licence and in the Export Control Act 2002 (2002 C.28) or in the Export Control Order 2008 have the same meaning here as they do in that Act and Order. The legislation referred to in this licence is updated from time to time and you will need to check that you have the most up-to-date version when using this licence.

For the legislation that applies to UK exports, please visit: www.legislation.gov.uk/

You can see the original Export Control Order at http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2008/3231/contents/made .

You can see the original Schedule 2 at http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2008/3231/schedule/2/made

The following terms and acronyms used in this licence have the following meanings.

Section 1 - Purpose

1. "Equipment" includes goods, software and technology.

2. 'Re-export" means to export goods, software or technology from a permitted destination, listed in section 3(1), back to the UK or to another destination allowed under this licence.

3 'You' means someone who has registered as a user with SPIRE, the electronic licensing system of the Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade (BIST).

Section 2 - Goods, software and technology

Note: Definitions of the goods, software and technology shown below have the same meaning as that given in the Export Control Order 2008 (as amended).

1. "Cluster munitions" means conventional munitions designed to disperse or release "explosive sub-munitions" (see note below).

2. "Explosive bomblets" means conventional munitions, weighing less than 20 kilograms each, which are not self-propelled, and which are specially designed to be dispersed or released by a dispenser fixed to an aircraft, and are designed to work by detonating an explosive charge before, on or after impact.

3. 'Explosive sub-munitions' means conventional munitions, weighing less than 20 kilograms each, which are dispersed or released by another conventional munition and are designed to work by detonating an explosive charge before, on or after impact (see note below).

4. 'MANPADS' (Man Portable Air Defence Systems) are surface-to-air missile systems designed to be carried and fired by a single person, and other surface-to-air

missile systems designed to be operated and fired by more than one person acting as a crew.

Note: 1 and 3 above do not include the following conventional munitions:

- a munition or sub-munition designed to disperse flares, smoke, pyrotechnics or chaff, or a munition designed for an air-defence role only.
- a munition or sub-munition designed to produce electrical or electronic effects.
- a munition that has all of the following characteristics:
    a. Each munition contains fewer than 10 explosive sub-munitions.
    b. Each explosive sub-munition weighs more than 4 kilograms.
    c. Each explosive sub-munition is designed to detect and engage a target object.
    d. Each explosive sub-munition has an electronic self-destruction mechanism.
    e. Each explosive sub-munition has an electronic self-deactivating feature.

Section 5 - Other restrictions that apply

1. "Security Classified" means that information or other assets are given a security classified when assessed against a security classified scheme. A security classified scheme is an administrative system to make sure that access to information and other assets is correctly managed and that assets are protected to an agreed and proportionate security classification level throughout their life. Other governments and organisations such as NATO and OCCAR have their own security classified schemes.

2. 'Collaborate' means to work together on an activity or project either under a contract, agreement or other form of arrangement.

3. 'Project security instructions' are the specific security instructions for a particular project. They are generated either after the signature of a project memorandum of understanding (MoU) involving more than one country or as part of a contractual arrangement. They bring together the security regulations of everyone involved in the project and often provide extra security instructions on classification, marking, release and other security arrangements for that project. A MoU is a document describing an agreement between more than one individual or organisation. It sets out the intended common line of action but does not imply a legal commitment.

4. 'MOD Form 680' is the way in which the Government assesses proposals by companies to release security classified goods, software and technology to foreign organisations (for example, individuals, companies partnerships or governments). An MOD Form 680 approval is not an approval to use an Open General Export Licence or to export without a licence. It is a separate security requirement.

5. 'F1686' is laid out in the Security Policy Framework, issued by the Cabinet Office (and included in the UK Government OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE Security Conditions). The full name is the "Application to sub-contract or collaborate with an overseas contractor on work involving OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE and above classified

information (also known as F1686)". It is the way in which exporters can gain approval to subcontract work to or work in partnership with overseas companies on certain MOD projects. F1686 approval is not an approval to use an Open General Export Licence. It is a separate security requirement. An approved F1686 can be considered a written letter of clearance from MOD.

6. 'Transferring software or technology electronically' means, in relation to this licence, sending software or technology by fax, phone, email or other electronic media. (Sending software or technology by phone is included only where the technology is contained in a document and the relevant part of the document is read out over the phone, or is described over the phone in such a way as to achieve substantially the same result as if it had been read).

7. 'Approved encryption' is encryption that has been evaluated and approved by NCSC. NCSC is the UK Government's national technical authority for information assurance (the security measures the NCSC considers necessary to make sure that information systems will protect the information they handle and will function as they need to, when they need to, under the control of legitimate users).

8. The 'accreditation authority' is the Chief Information Officer. Their contact details are as follows:

Chief Information Officer
Information Security Policy
Ministry of Defence
Level 4, Zone K
MOD Main Building
Horse Guards Avenue
London
SW1A 2HB

email: CIO-InfoSyPol@mod.uk

9. 'WMD purposes', as defined in article 2(1) of the Export Control Order 2008, means used in connection with developing, producing, handling, operating, maintaining, storing, detecting, identifying or spreading (disseminating) chemical, biological or nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, or developing, producing, maintaining or storing missiles capable of delivering such weapons.

Section 6 - Before exporting or transferring goods or software

1. 'SPIRE' is the UK licensing authority's online licence application and registration system. You will need to register yourself and your business on SPIRE before you can apply for a licence to export controlled goods. Persons who registered to use previous versions of this licence do not need to re-register. Registrations are carried over to the current in force version of this licence.
Website: www.spire.trade.gov.uk

2. A 'consignee' may be an individual, a company, a government or NATO organisation.

3. An ‘original undertaking’ means one that is completed by your consignee, is written in English on the consignee’s headed notepaper and is dated and signed, either electronically or with an original signature, by a senior representative, partner or principal of the consignee.

Download a copy of the ECJU undertaking template.

4. ‘Government’ as it relates to a contract includes direct contracts with governments, armed forces of a government, government agencies and companies working on behalf of government (and there is evidence of them doing so).

5. ‘Permitted use’ means use of the items specified in section 2 of this licence, by an individual or an organisation (for example, company or partnership) in a destination specified in section 3 and which meets the conditions set out in sections 4, 5, and 9(2) and other relevant conditions, restrictions or requirements set out in this licence.

Section 7 - When exporting or transferring goods of software

1. ‘Declaration’ means a commercial document completed for an official of Her Majesty’s Government (HMG) which meets the conditions set out in section 7(1).

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