Export Controls - Overview

Federal regulations related to export controls are complex and under constant revision by the government. This is complicated by the fact that agencies do not use standard verbiage, define different items as being controlled and sometimes issue seemingly contradictory regulations on the same topics.

Export controls exist to protect the national security and foreign policy interests of this country. They govern the shipment, transmission, or transfer of certain sensitive items, information or software to foreign persons, entities or countries. Where applicable, they may require authorization from the U.S. Government in the form of an export license. Most items, information or software that the university ships or shares with its colleagues and research partners will qualify for a “Fundamental Exemption.” However, engaging in research that is described as classified, proprietary, publication restricted or ITAR/EAR controlled can remove the opportunity for the exemption. Most often, circumstances that negate the protection of the Fundamental Exemption are identified at the proposal or award stage of a sponsored project but any doubt or questions should always occasion a discussion with the Empowered Official or Export Control Officer in the Office of Sponsored Programs. Discussion should be engaged as soon as possible as a license (should that be required) often takes several weeks to obtain.

More details discussion and instructions can be found at the following links:
- “EC Compliance Programs”
- “EC Administrative Guidelines”
- “EC Forms”
- “EC Key Terms”
- “EC FAQs”
- “EC Training”

Questions should be directed to Steve Berhang, Export Control Officer (ECO) at 201-216-3464, sberhang@stevens.edu. The Office of Sponsored Programs, including Export Controls is located in Room 322 EAS.

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