

Recent Developments in Export Controls in Japan

The Ministry of Economy and Industry (METI) is responsible for export controls of WMD-related items and technologies, and has taken various measures to strengthen Japanese export controls. In April 2005, METI announced the following measures in conjunction with these efforts.

List Controls

1. Revision of General Licensing System (GLS)

Under the General Licensing System (GLS), exporters do not have to apply for individual licenses once they acquire a general license for three years. Exporters may apply for general licenses for exports of less-sensitive items or technologies to less-sensitive destinations. Under the revised GLS, exporters that apply for general licenses are required to introduce and implement Internal Control Programs (ICP).

Catch-All Controls

2. Review of Commodity Watch List (CWL) and update of End Users List (EUL)

Exporters must pay attention to end users and end uses when they judge the sensitivity of items to be exported under catch-all controls. However, they usually have little knowledge of WMD, so they find it difficult to evaluate the risk of stated end users or end uses. Therefore, Commodity Watch List (CWL) and End User List (EUL) are made available to exporters. The CWL and EUL are reviewed periodically (most recently last April).

Private Sector Outreach

3. Outreach Activities targeting Universities and Research Institutes

Awareness on the importance of export controls is needed not only for private companies, but also for universities and research institutes. As international joint research continues to grow, exports of sensitive items or technology transfer are increasing. METI officially notified presidents of universities and research institutes that they must not be involved in proliferation activities, especially by transferring sensitive technologies.

5. Support for Overseas Subsidiaries and Affiliates

Recent events, such as the revelation of illicit procurement networks or circumventive activity, show us that no matter how strict export controls in holding companies are implemented, there still remains concern that overseas affiliates may be involved in proliferation activities. METI supports measures for effective export controls in affiliates in order for them to avoid involvement in proliferation activities. An administrative notice in the name of the Director General of Export Controls of METI has been issued for the strengthening of export controls in overseas affiliates of Japanese companies.