Australian Government
Defence

DEFENCE EXPORT CONTROLS

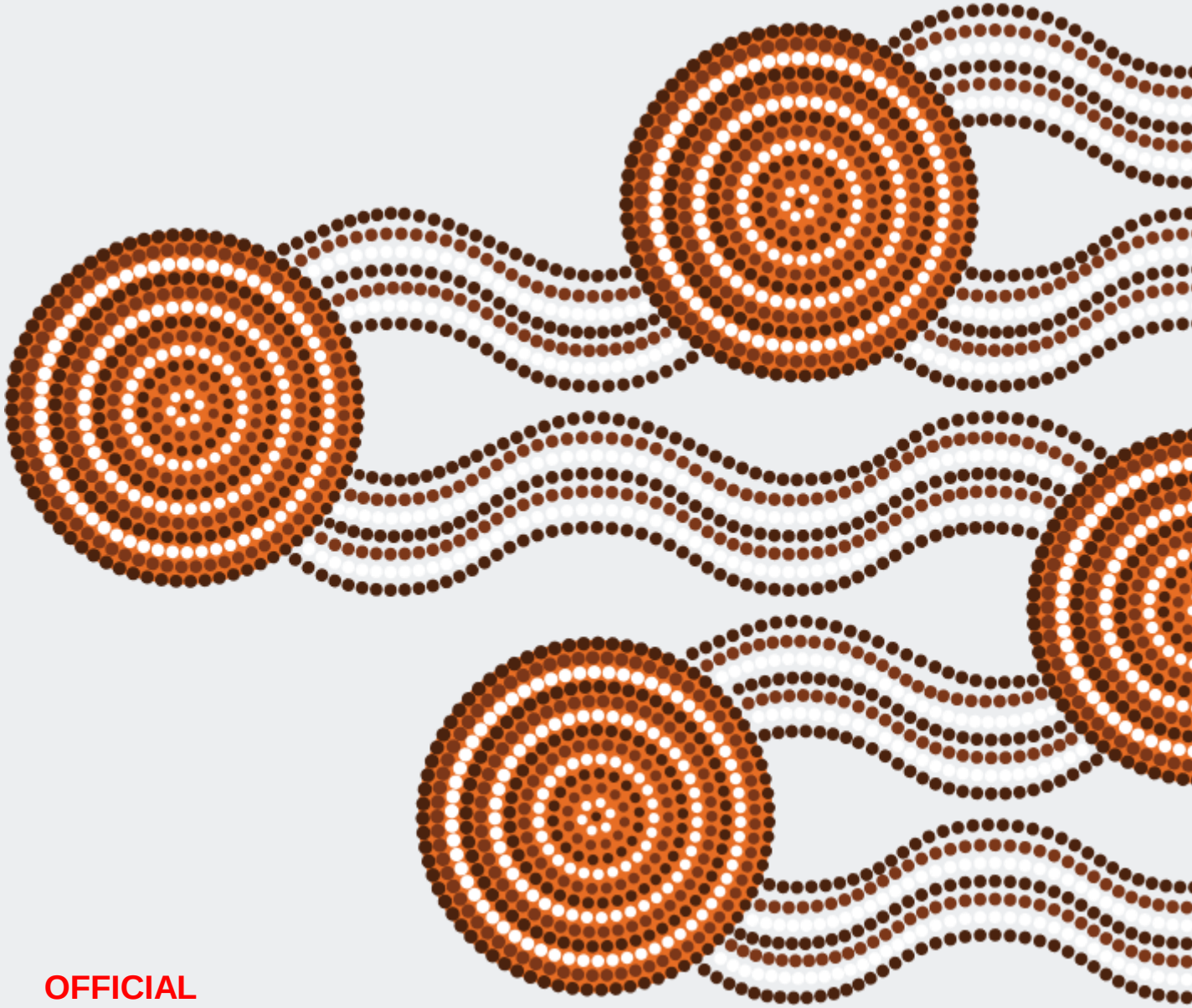
Assistant Secretary Defence Export Controls

Tuesday 28 October 2025

Acknowledgement of Country

I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, and pay my respects to their Elders both past and present.

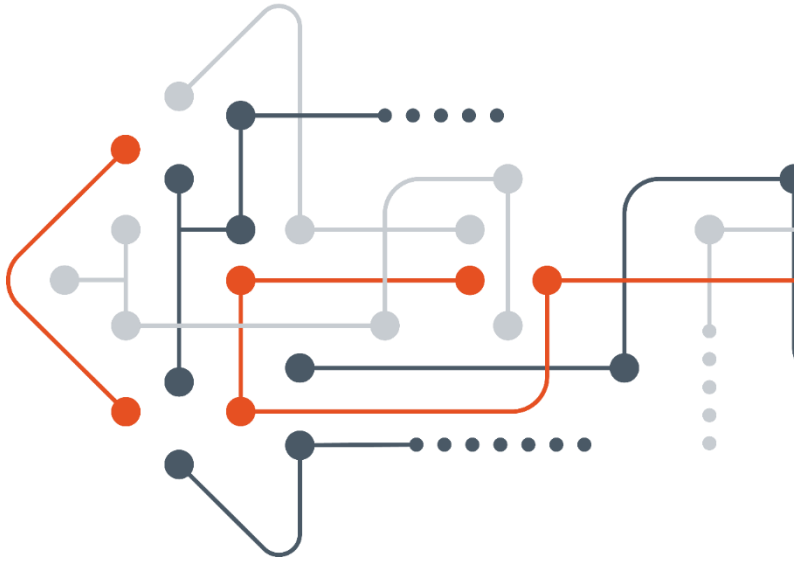
I would also like to pay my respects to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women who have contributed to the defence of Australia in times of peace and war.



We are Defence Export Controls

Defence Export Controls (DEC) is the **Commonwealth regulator** for the movement of defence-related goods and technology. We:

- assess applications for defence-related export permits
- provide guidance and education
- undertake compliance activities
- work in partnership with industry and higher education and research sector in managing sensitive defence technology.



The Year in Review

The *Defence Trade Controls Amendment Act 2024* (and supporting *Defence Trade Legislation Amendment Regulations 2024*) commenced on 1 September 2024, changing Australia's defence export control laws.

Two key changes were:

1. **Licence-free environment** between Australia, the United States and United Kingdom, where permits may not be required.

2. **Three new controls** where permits may be required:

   Section 10A - Intangible supply of DSGL tech to a non-exempt foreign person wholly within Australia

   Section 10B - Re-export of certain DSGL goods/tech (DSGL Part 1 & 2 Sensitive and Very Sensitive lists only) from a place outside of Australia to another place outside of Australia

   Section 10C - Provision of certain DSGL services outside of Australia

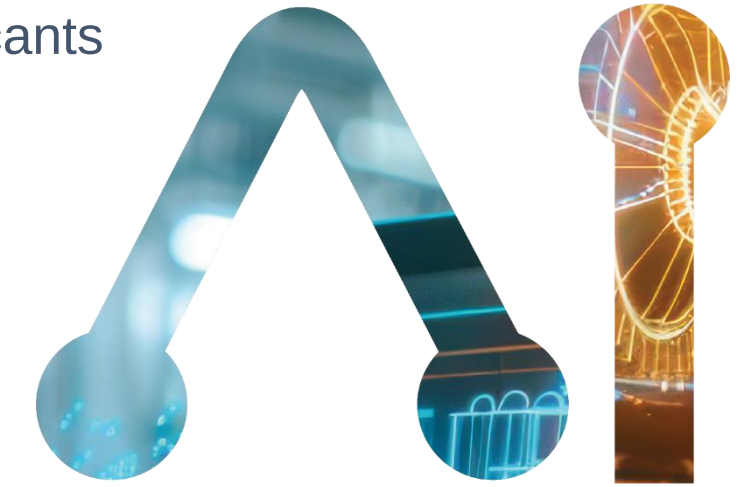
Successes

- DEC engaged extensively with government, industry, higher education & research sectors, and individuals to implement the DTC Act and make improvements to the way we do things
- As at 1 October 2025:
  - almost **500** entities enrolled in the AUKUS full community
    - more than **900** entities enrolled in the AUKUS Australian community (non-ITAR)
  - the LFE has been used over **1200 times** to transfer exports to US/UK
  - facilitated over **$150 million** in licence free exports from Australia.
- My Australian Defence Exports – MADE – portal
- Conducting timely and evidence-based assessments and permit decisions
- Promoting industry and academia's compliance with Australia's export laws

What’s next for DEC?

MADE AI

- The AI knowledge assistant will operate as a ‘co-pilot’ style agent. The persona provides users with DEC information in a conversational style.
- complements MADE capabilities to empower permit applicants with applicable legislative and permit policy information
- cites only publicly available source information, including legislation and DEC fact sheets
- covers current legislation related to DEC, and Safeguarding Australia’s Military Secrets (SAMS).



What’s next for DEC?

Self-Assessment Tool

- Part of our compliance monitoring program to further safeguard Australia’s sensitive technologies and capabilities
- Designed to help you manage compliance across all export permit holders and identify opportunities for uplift
- Will be piloted in November.

Voluntary disclosure program

- DEC continues to take a risk-based approach to compliance using a proportionate response model.
  - submit a voluntary disclosure report if you suspect non-compliance has occurred.
    - on average three voluntary disclosures received per month by DEC
  - educate, upskill and build competency by attending DEC's free monthly webinars
    - on average 440 people attended each month

Factors considered when addressing non-compliance
Risk of harm
Seriousness of the contravention
Apparent intent of the entity inadvertent, negligent, reckless or deliberate
Compliance history
Frequency of the issue occurring

Requests for Information

- If information required to process a permit application is **not** provided or is **incomplete**, DEC will send an Request for Information (RFI) to the applicant.
- Permit applicants will want to avoid RFIs because they delay application **processing** times.

Three most common RFIs

1. Consignee or end user details
2. Description of goods or technology
   - *Provide as much information as possible*
3. Absent or incorrect general details
   - *e.g. temporary vs permanent export; duration of export or supply of activity; quantity of items*

Thank you