



Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) Info

- Founded in 1987 to inhibit the proliferation of delivery systems for Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) by controlling the exports of those items and the goods and technologies that contribute to them.
- Not a treaty, but an informal agreement between Partners, of which there are currently 35, to coordinate national export control programs. This is done through adherence to the MTCR Guidelines and aligning export controls with the Equipment, Technology, and Software Annex (the Annex).
- Partners have agreed to control the export of items listed on the Annex, which is divided into two Categories:
 - Category I items are complete rocket systems and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) with a range of at least 300 km and a payload capability of at least 500 kg, production facilities for such systems, and major sub-systems (e.g. rocket stages, liquid propellant engines, guidance systems, RVs). If a system contains a Category I item, that system is considered Category I, unless the Category I item cannot be removed from the system.
 - Category II items make up the rest of the Annex, and include rocket systems and UAVs with a range of at least 300 km, regardless of payload capability, as well as a wide range of other equipment, materials, and technology.
- Per the Guidelines, the highest restraint is placed on Category I items, and there is a strong presumption of denial for any proposed export of Category I items. Category II items are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
 - In July, 2020, the U.S. announced that in order to keep pace with the growing utility and availability of UAVs, the U.S. will not apply the strong presumption of denial to exports of Category I UAVs that cannot travel faster than 800 km/hr. Like Category II items, export of these UAVs will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Changes/updates to the Annex are discussed at the MTCR Technical Experts Meeting, generally held twice a year, which may be attended by representatives from all Partner countries. Any Partner can propose changes to the Annex, and changes are made by consensus decisions.
- Within the U.S., proposing changes to the Annex and reviewing proposals from other Partners is done by the Missile Annex Review Committee (MARC), an interagency group headed by the Department of State, with representation from the Departments of Defense, Energy, and Commerce. The MARC also makes determinations on the classification of systems as Category I or II.
- Items from the Annex, including Category I items, are incorporated into both the USML and the EAR. In the EAR, those items are designated with an MT control, and require a license for export to all destinations other than Canada. The licensing policy for MT items can be found in 742.5 of the EAR.
- In addition to the policies in 742.5, in general the U.S. does not support Category I systems in non-MTCR countries, does not support Category I missile programs in MTCR Partner countries that the U.S. did not support prior to the establishment of the MTCR in 1987, and does not encourage other Category I programs in MTCR Partner countries.
- The MTCR Guidelines, the Annex, as well as a handbook for using the Annex are all available on the MTCR's website at www.mtcr.info.
- You can reach out to me for any questions about the MTCR or MT controlled items, or anything you want us to look at, such as suggestions for needed updates to the Annex. My email is sharon.bragonje@bis.doc.gov.