



**Australian
BORDER FORCE**

Australia's Approach to Strategic Trade Controls

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Australia's Counter Proliferation Objectives

- To ensure we uphold our international obligations.
- To ensure Australia is not used as a source of technology, equipment, know-how or finance for illicit WMD programmes.
- To intervene with illegal trade in defence and strategic goods.
- Support for legitimate industries to ensure compliance.

Who is Responsible?

- No single agency is responsible for strategic trade controls
 - Foreign / Trade Ministries;
 - Licensing;
 - Intelligence;
 - **Enforcement / Investigative.**

- A whole of government approach is critical
 - interagency co-operation;
 - information sharing.

Strategic Trade Controls

Who do we work with to combat the proliferation of strategic goods?



Department of Defence

- Key policy agency for defence and dual use goods.
- Administers Australia's control list – Australia's Licencing Agency
- Complete technical assessments to determine whether the goods are regulated or not:
 - This information is then provided to ABF to determine and take appropriate law enforcement action.
- Administers Australia's catch all control.
- Outreach.

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

- Lead agency in relation to administering UN and Autonomous sanctions.
- Assess control status of exports of concern to sanctioned countries, and provide advice to ABF, Defence and the public.
- Issue export permits for goods and entities covered under sanctions legislation.
- Outreach.

Interagency Co-operation

Capitalises upon the benefits of:

- Shared intelligence/information to:
 - Identify/target;
 - Analyse;
 - Evaluate risks; and
 - Develop risk treatments.
- Response capability.
- Access to subject matter expertise/advice.
- Legislative powers.

The role of ABF

- Our mission is to protect Australia's border and enable legitimate travel and trade.
- Responsible for operational border, investigations, compliance, detention and enforcement functions.
- Australia's Customs and Immigration service.
- Policy, regulatory and corporate support for the Australian Border Force are delivered by the Department of Home Affairs.



ABF strategic trade objectives

- Upholding Australia's Strategic Trade Control international obligations.
- Intervene with illegal trade in defence and strategic goods, and goods that can contribute to Illicit weapons of mass destruction.
- Utilising specialist investigation and enforcement capability, addresses national security risks.

ABF Counter Proliferation

- target, prevent, disrupt and deter the proliferation of weapons and dual-use goods including through the investigation and prosecution of entities, confiscation of assets and/or the seizure of relevant goods.
- utilise powers under migration and citizenship law to respond to persons of national security concern.
- provide assistance to visa processing officers – national security visa screening.

Managing Risk at the Border

- The ABF enforces strategic trade control laws at the border and contributes to Australia's counter proliferation efforts through it's:
 - mandatory reporting requirements,
 - 100% documentary screening of exports,
 - powers of officers (physical interventions),
 - detection technologies,
 - investigatory powers,
 - compliance strategies,
 - Commodity Identification Training.

Outreach - a New Approach

- Export Controls Network:
 - Defence Export Control Office;
 - Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
 - ABF;
 - Department of Industry.
- Enables a more targeted and more informed approach to industry outreach.

Relationship with Industry



BORDER WATCH

Help protect Australia's border

- Daily liaison with freight handlers.
- Encourages employees of companies to report suspicious border activities to ABF.
- Draws on knowledge and expertise of people in their specific industry (eg. freight forwarders).

Further information

- Website: <https://www.abf.gov.au/importing-exporting-and-manufacturing/prohibited-goods>

Legislative references (<https://www.legislation.gov.au>)

- *Customs Act 1901*
- *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956*
- *Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulations 1958*