

Summary of Revisions to USML Categories I, II, and III

In 2009, the interagency began a review of the U.S. export control system, with the goal of strengthening national security and the competitiveness of key U.S. manufacturing and technology sectors by focusing on current threats, as well as adapting to the changing economic and technological landscape. This review determined that the then-current export control system was overly complicated, contained too many redundancies, and, in trying to protect too much, diminished our ability to focus our efforts on the most critical national security priorities.

To this end, the Departments of State and Commerce have been reviewing and revising the two primary lists of controlled items, i.e., the United States Munitions List (USML) and the Commerce Control List (CCL). A key strategy in the reform effort is to construct the lists so they positively identify the items they control. Thus, for example, the USML lists the specific types of parts, components, accessories, and attachments that warrant control under the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) rather than all generic “parts,” “components,” “accessories and attachments” that are in any way “specifically designed, modified, adapted, or configured” for a defense article, regardless of military significance (as is currently the case for unrevised USML categories). All other generic parts, components, accessories, and attachments and the technology for their “production,” “development,” or “use” that are “specially designed” for an item formerly on the USML but not specifically identified on the USML will become subject to the jurisdiction of the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) and identified on its CCL.

In connection with this effort, the Department of State has published 26 final, or interim final, rules revising eighteen of the twenty-one USML categories. In May 2018, the Department of State published proposed revisions of the final three USML Categories, including Category I (firearms and related articles), II (guns and armaments) and III (ammunition and ordnance), which follow this model of utilizing a “positive list” for controls. Articles that are not positively identified on the USML will continue to be controlled, albeit under the jurisdiction of the EAR.

Category I—Firearms and Related Articles

Paragraph (a) is revised by limiting the scope of the control to firearms using caseless ammunition. Non-automatic and semi-automatic firearms that do not use

caseless ammunition will be controlled in Export Control Classification Number (ECCN) 0A501 on the CCL, except for firearms manufactured prior to 1890.

Paragraph (b) is non-substantively revised.

Paragraph (c) is revised by limiting the scope to firearms specially designed to integrate fire control, automatic tracking, or automatic firing (*e.g.*, Precision Guided Firearms). Other weapons that were controlled here will be controlled in ECCN 0A501.

Paragraph (d) is revised by limiting the scope to fully automatic shotguns. Other shotguns that were controlled here will be controlled in ECCN 0A502.

Paragraph (e) is revised by removing flash suppressors and moving certain parts and components for the remaining items in paragraph (e) to paragraph (h)(3). Flash suppressors will be controlled in ECCN 0A501.

Paragraph (f) is reserved. Riflescopes with night vision or infrared were moved to USML Category XII(c)(2) in 2016 through 81 FR 70340. All other rifle scopes that were controlled here will be controlled in ECCN 0A504.

Paragraph (g) is revised to more clearly delineate the major components of USML firearms that are controlled. The major parts and components of firearms that transition to the CCL will be controlled in ECCN 0A501.

Paragraph (h) is revised by adding four subparagraphs to specifically enumerate the articles controlled. The parts, components, accessories, and attachments of firearms that transition to the CCL will be controlled in ECCN 0A501, as will any parts, components, accessories, and attachments of USML firearms that are not listed in paragraphs (g) or (h).

Paragraph (i) is revised to add control for the classified technical data directly related to items controlled in ECCNs 0A501, 0B501, 0D501, and 0E501 and defense services using the classified technical data.

A new paragraph (x) has been added to USML Category I, allowing ITAR licensing on behalf of the Department of Commerce for commodities, software, and technology subject to the EAR, provided those commodities, software, and technology are to be used in or with defense articles controlled in USML Category

XII and are described in the purchase documentation submitted with the application.

Category II— Guns and Armament

Paragraph (a) is revised by adding five subparagraphs to specifically enumerate the articles controlled, including adding a control for DOD-funded development guns and armaments and their specially designed parts and components. Two notes are added to paragraph (a) in order to exclude from the control certain items that do not warrant control on the USML. Non-automatic and non-semi-automatic rifles, carbines, and pistols between .50 (12.7 mm) and .72 caliber (18.288 mm) will be controlled under ECCN 0A501. Black powder guns and armaments manufactured between 1890 and 1919 will be controlled under ECCN 0A602, except for black powder guns and armaments manufactured earlier than 1890.

Paragraph (b) is revised to control flame throwers based on the technical parameter of a range 20 meters or greater.

Paragraph (c) is reserved. The items that were controlled in this paragraph that warrant USML control are now described in paragraph (a)(4) and the rest are controlled in ECCN 0A602.

Paragraph (d) is revised to control specially designed kinetic energy weapons.

Paragraph (e) is revised to more specifically describe the items warranting control under this paragraph. Items that were controlled in this paragraph as being for guns and armaments controlled in paragraph (c) that did not move to paragraph (a)(4) are controlled in ECCN 0A602.

Paragraph (f) is reserved. The items that were controlled here will be controlled in ECCN 0A606.

Paragraph (g) is reserved. The items that were controlled here will be controlled in ECCN 0B602.

Paragraph (h) is reserved. The items that were controlled here will be controlled in ECCN 0B602.

Paragraph (i) is reserved. The items that were controlled that continue to warrant USML control are moved to paragraphs (j)(9) and components thereof to (j)(10) and the rest will be controlled in ECCN 0B602.

Paragraph (j) is revised by adding seventeen subparagraphs to specifically enumerate the articles controlled. The parts, components, accessories, and attachments that are not listed in paragraph (j) will be controlled in ECCN 0A602.

Paragraph (k) is revised to add control for the classified technical data directly related to items controlled in ECCNs 0A602, 0B602, 0D602, and 0E602 and defense services using the classified technical data.

A new paragraph (x) has been added to USML Category II, allowing ITAR licensing on behalf of the Department of Commerce for commodities, software, and technology subject to the EAR, provided those commodities, software, and technology are to be used in or with defense articles controlled in USML Category XII and are described in the purchase documentation submitted with the application.

Category III—Ammunition and Ordnance

Paragraph (a) is revised by adding ten subparagraphs to specifically enumerate the articles controlled, including adding a control for DOD-funded development ammunition. Ammunition not described will be controlled under ECCN 0A505. Black powder guns and armaments manufactured between 1890 and 1919 will be controlled under ECCN 0A602, except for black powder guns and armaments manufactured earlier than 1890.

Paragraph (b) is revised to more specifically describe the items warranting control under this paragraph by identifying those items in two subparagraphs. Items that were controlled in this paragraph but do not meet the more specific description will be controlled in ECCN 0B505.

Paragraph (c) is reserved. The items that were controlled in this paragraph will be controlled in ECCN 0B505.

Paragraph (d) is revised by adding fifteen subparagraphs to specifically enumerate the articles controlled. Parts and components of USML ammunition that are not described will be controlled in ECCN 0A505.

Paragraph (e) is revised to add control for the classified technical data directly related to items controlled in ECCNs 0A505, 0B505, 0D505, and 0E505 and defense services using the classified technical data.

A new paragraph (x) has been added to USML Category II, allowing ITAR licensing on behalf of the Department of Commerce for commodities, software, and technology subject to the EAR, provided those commodities, software, and technology are to be used in or with defense articles controlled in USML Category XII and are described in the purchase documentation submitted with the application.

A new note is added to Category III to provide that ammunition crimped without a projectile (blank star) and dummy ammunition with a pierced powder chamber are not on the USML. These items will be controlled in ECCN 0A505. An additional new note is added to provide that grenades containing non-lethal or less lethal projectiles are not on the USML. These grenades will be controlled in ECCN 0A505.

For items that have transitioned to the CCL in a 600 series entry, transactions destined for countries subject to a U.S. arms embargo will *not* be eligible for license exceptions, except for License Exception GOV under EAR §740.11(b)(2)(ii). Multilateral regime-controlled items moved from the USML to the CCL will retain their regime control parameters and reasons for control.

The Department of Commerce has created a License Exception Strategic Trade Authorization (STA, §740.20), which authorizes the export, re-export, and transfer (in-country) of certain items on the CCL to “countries of least concern” without a license (i.e., Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom). Parts, components, accessories and attachments controlled under subparagraph “x” of the relevant ECCNs will be automatically available for this exception. However, end-items that will be controlled under the new ECCNs will be subject to a “first time” license requirement. Exporters will be able to request a determination on STA eligibility for these items concurrent with a license request. If the Departments of State, Defense, and Commerce all agree, the end-item would be separately posted, by model number, as eligible for STA in the future. If the

departments cannot reach consensus, the end-item would continue to require a license to all destinations except Canada.

Existing License Exceptions LVS (§740.3), TMP (§740.9), RPL (§740.10), and GOV (§740.11(b)(2)(ii) or (b)(2)(iii)) will be eligible for use for items controlled by these ECCNs.