**Export Control Department**



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**International Travel FAQs**

**Export Control Compliance**

**Q: Do I always need to consult the Export Control Office before international travel?**

A: Yes, it's always recommended to inform the Export Control Office of any international travel, even personal trips that might involve laboratory visits or collaborations. Early engagement ensures you navigate regulations properly and avoid potential issues.

**Q: What happens if I travel without consulting the Export Control Office?**

A: Unintentional violations of export control regulations can result in legal consequences, including fines, penalties, and even restricted travel privileges. Consultation ensures you avoid such risks.

**Q: What resources are available to learn more about export control regulations?**

A: The U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) and the U.S. Department of State Export Control Licensing Division offer resources and guidance on regulations and licensing procedures. The Export Control Office can also provide training and answer specific questions.

 **Additional Resources**

* U.S. Department of Commerce BIS: <https://www.bis.doc.gov>
* U.S. Department of State: <https://www.pmddtc.state.gov/ddtc_public/ddtc_public>
* BNL Export Control Office Website: [BNL | Export Control Office](https://www.bnl.gov/export/)

**Q: What information should I provide in my pre-travel assessment?**

A: Be as detailed as possible about your travel plans, including destination, purpose, specific activities, items you'll carry (hardware, software, etc.), duration of stay, and contacts with any foreign colleagues or institutions.

**Q: How do I determine if my planned activities involve technical data?**

A: Consult the Export Control Office for guidance. Sharing technical information through presentations, discussions, or collaboration can be subject to control, depending on the content and context.

**Q: What if my travel plans change after the initial assessment?**

A: Immediately inform the Export Control Office of any changes that might impact export control compliance, such as revised activities, unexpected collaborations, or extended travel.

**Q: How do I check if someone I plan to meet with is on the Restricted Parties List?**

A: The Export Control Office contracts with Descartes Visual Compliance Screening ([www.visualcompliance.com](http://www.visualcompliance.com)). You can screen your travel contacts against the RPL. In addition, you can download the app for mobile capability during your travel to conduct RPL screening. It's crucial to ensure no interactions occur with anyone on the list.

**Q: What if I inadvertently interact with someone on the RPL while traveling?**

A: Immediately report the situation to the Export Control Office upon your return. They will advise you on the appropriate course of action.

**Q: How do I know if I need an export license for my travel?**

A: Work with the Export Control Office to determine if the items you'll carry, planned activities, or destination require a license. They will work through the application process.

**Q: What if I need an export license but don't have enough time before my travel?**

A: Discuss your situation with the Export Control Office as soon as possible. They can advise on potential options.

**Q: What kind of documentation should I keep during and after my travel?**

A: Maintain detailed records of your itinerary, activities, items carried, and any approvals or licenses obtained. This documentation ensures compliance and facilitates inspections if needed.

**Q: What should I do about encrypted devices or software while traveling?**

A: Traveling with encrypted devices or software may require specific licenses or declarations at customs. Inform the Export Control Office for guidance.

**Q: Can I bring my work laptop or research data on personal trips abroad?**

A: It depends on your destination. While personal travel generally doesn't require export licenses, carrying work-related data or devices still needs attention. Consult the Export Control Office for guidance.

**Q: I'm invited to give a conference presentation abroad. Does that require an export license?**

A: It depends on the content of your presentation. The Export Control Office can help you assess if your presentation involves controlled technical data and guide you on permissible information sharing practices. All presentations must include an export control disclaimer statement, confirming that they have been reviewed for compliance.

**Q: Can I collaborate with foreign researchers during my travels?**

A: Yes, however it cannot involve unauthorized technology transfer or sharing of controlled data. See key considerations on the ECO Website: [BNL | Collaboration with Foreign Nationals | Export Control Office](https://www.bnl.gov/export/foreign-nationals.php). Additionally, the Export Control Office can advise on appropriate collaboration agreements and data protection measures.

**Q: What should I expect when going through customs with laboratory equipment or research materials?**

A: When going through customs with BNL owned laboratory equipment or research materials, anticipate that customs authorities in the U.S. and other countries may ask to inspect export documentation for items entering another country or returning to the U.S. Ensure accurate declaration of all research materials and equipment and be prepared to present the “Tools of the Trade Letter” when requested.

**Q: Can I be stopped or questioned at customs about my research or travel activities?**

A: While unlikely, it's possible. Remain calm and cooperative, and readily present your travel documents and any necessary approvals. If unsure about responding to questions, politely request to contact the Export Control Office for assistance.

**Q: Do I need to report anything to the Export Control Office after my travel?**

A: Yes, report your return, confirming the return of all items. This will allow us to close out any export license authorizations and/or exemptions/exceptions used for your travel. Please notify the Export Control Office of any significant changes to your travel plans, unexpected collaborations, or interactions with anyone on the Restricted Parties List (RPL). This will ensure full compliance and help to avoid potential issues.

**Q: What happens if I accidentally violate export control regulations during my travel?**

A: If you suspect a violation, immediately report it to the Export Control Office (Export@BNL.gov). They will guide you through the necessary corrective actions and minimize potential consequences.

**Remember, seeking clarification and guidance from the Export Control Office is always recommended to ensure a smooth and compliant international travel experience. Don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.**