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HEECA Brief Guide to Applying for a Strategic Export Control Licence

What is a Strategic Export Control Licence and why do I need one?

You need a Strategic Export Licence to export out of the UK or otherwise trade in controlled goods, software or technology (including data and information), or to provide technical assistance in certain instances. The controls restrict or prohibit the transfer or disclosure of sensitive items and information that may be used for harmful purposes, thereby preserving national and international security.

When do I need to use a licence?

Generally, a licence should be used where the goods, software or technology are listed on the UK Strategic Export Control List or when military end-use or WMD end-use export controls apply. The application of [military end-use controls or other] arms embargoes may restrict or prohibit transfers of technology (information) to certain destinations even if that technology is not overtly intended for a military or WMD programme (e.g. due to risk of diversion for those uses). N.B. The application of WMD end-use controls needs to be considered in the context of potential indirect technical assistance that may take place in academic settings.

How do I know which export licence applies to my situation?

- **Open General Export Licence** (or OGEL) has set terms and conditions. It permits the export of specific goods listed on the UK Strategic Export Control List to named destinations. If you cannot comply with the terms and conditions of an OGEL you must apply for a SIEL or an OIEL.

- **Standard Individual Export Licence** (or SIEL) permits the export of certain strategic controlled items of a stated quantity to a specified consignee or end-user. SIELs may also be used for exports subject to end-use controls or if your export is subject to trade sanctions or embargoes even if your items are not designated on the UK Strategic Export Control List.

- **Open Individual Export Licence** (or OIEL), allows a named exporter to export multiple shipments of specific controlled goods to named destinations.

- Technical Assistance Licence is dedicated to the provision of technical assistance or support when there are WMD end-use concerns.

*N.B. **OGELs** and **SIELs** are the most common licences typically used by academia.*

What should I consider when applying for a SIEL?

General	SIELs should be submitted through the SPIRE system using the SIEL template. Please follow the HEECA SOP – Creating Export Licences via SPIRE document for guidance.
Submission	Check your application carefully when using SPIRE, taking care to validate each page for errors, before making a submission.
Labelling	Ensure that the submission clearly identifies the type of export/transfer in the "goods list" field - the wording of "technology transfer" or "technical assistance" should be included in the item description. See the HEECA SOP – Creating Export Licences via SPIRE document for all suggested wording to include in your application.
Supporting Docs	Technical Specification required – this should include relevant technical detail about the nature of the items, the activity and how it will be conducted.

End User Undertaking (EUU) required – this should be on the format as specified by the ECJU. N.B. temporary SIELs do not require a signed EUU. |

How long will the process take for a SIEL?

ECJU aims to provide a decision on most SIEL applications within 20 working days, and generally within 60 working days. SIEL submissions vary in time taken to reach an outcome – processing may take anywhere from a few days to many months depending on the nature of the involved items, exports, and parties.

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