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**Reference Guide for New
Firearm Export Regulations**

EFFECTIVE DATE: MARCH 9, 2020

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Introduction

New regulations controlling the export of firearms, parts, accessories and related products take effect on March 9, 2020.

Most non-military firearms and related products will cease to be listed on the United States Munitions List (USML). Items on the USML are controlled for export purposes under the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) administered by the Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (DDTC) in the U.S. State Department.

Starting on March 9, most of these products will be listed on the Commerce Control List (CCL). Items on the CCL are controlled for export purposes under the Export Administration Regulations (EAR), administered by the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) in the U.S. Commerce Department.

The changes are far-ranging and complex. We have prepared this Reference Guide to provide U.S. exporters of firearms and related products with a quick overview of some of the most significant changes that will take effect on March 9.

Please note that this document contains summaries of complex regulations and is not intended to be a substitute for the regulations themselves or for legal advice, if you require it.

LVS (Limited Value Shipment) Exception

You may be able to ship up to \$500 worth of products without a license by using the LVS exception. Complete firearms cannot be shipped under the exception.

Please note that there are specific instructions and restrictions for using this exception. These are explained on the following page.

An EEI / AES filing is required for all items shipping under this exception regardless of value and destination. The filing must include the LVS exception code and the Commodity Description must start with the ECCN of the product.

Products available for the LVS exception for most countries (see the complete list of eligible destination countries in the [EAR's Country Group B List](#)):

- 0A501.c parts for firearms other than shotguns: barrels*, cylinders, barrel extensions, mounting blocks (trunnions), bolts*, bolt carriers*, operating rods, gas pistons, trigger housings, triggers, hammers, sears*, disconnectors, pistol grips that contain fire control parts or components, and buttstocks that contain fire control parts or components.
- 0A501.d: detachable magazines for firearms other than shotguns with a capacity of 17 – 50 rounds.
- For Canada only, 0A501.e parts for non-automatic and semiautomatic firearms other than shotguns: receivers (frames)* and complete breech mechanisms, including castings, forgings stampings, or machined items thereof.

- 0A501 .x: parts and components that are specially designed for firearms other than shotguns and not specified in 0A501 .c, d, or y. This includes magazines with a capacity of 16 rounds or less.
- 0A502 parts for shotguns: Complete trigger mechanism, magazines, and/or magazine extension tubes.
- For Canada only, 0A502 parts for shotguns: complete breech mechanisms for shotguns.
- 0A504.g: Lenses, other optical elements and adjustment mechanisms for telescopic sights, holographic sights, reflex or red dot sights, reticle sights, other sighting devices that contain optical elements, or riflescopes that are specially designed for firearms that are subject to the ITAR.

**If these parts are specially designed for fully automatic firearms or firearms using caseless ammunition, they are still controlled by ITAR and not allowed to ship under the exception.*

The following parts will remain ITAR controlled and are not allowed to ship under this exception:

- Silencers, mufflers, and sound suppressors including specially designed parts and components therefor.
- Barrels, receivers (frames), bolts, bolt carriers, slides, and sears specially designed for fully automatic firearms or for firearms using caseless ammunition.
- Magazines for firearms to .50 caliber (12.7mm) with a capacity greater than 50 rounds including specially designed parts and components therefor.

- Parts and components specially designed for conversion of a semiautomatic firearm to a fully automatic firearm.
- Parts and components specially designed for Precision Guided Firearms.

How the LVS exception is applied:

- Orders may not be split up, structured, or adjusted to meet the dollar limit.
- The value used to determine if LVS applies must be the actual selling price or the current market price.
- The \$500 limit is applied per order and per ECCN. This means a purchaser can have multiple orders of products up to \$500. A purchaser can also have multiple products under different ECCNs on the same order.

For example:

- If a purchaser orders \$500 of 0A501 parts today and then orders another \$500 of 0A501 parts at a later date, both orders can ship under the LVS exception.
- If a purchaser orders \$500 in pistol parts under 0A501.c and \$500 in shotgun parts under 0A502 on the same order, the order can ship under the LVS exception because the items are under different ECCNs.
- If a purchaser orders \$500 in pistol parts under 0A501.c and \$500 in rifle parts under 0A501.x on the same order, the LVS exception cannot be used for that order because the total value of ECCN 0A501 exceeds the LVS limit of \$500.

Restriction on annual value of LVS orders:

- The total value of exports per calendar year to a purchaser may not exceed 12 times the LVS value limit. $\$500 \times 12 \text{ times} = \$6,000$.
- This restriction applies to the ECCN, not the complete order. If a purchaser reaches the \$6,000 maximum for 0A501 parts, they can still qualify for the LVS exception for 0A502 parts and/or 0A504.g parts.
- There is no limit on the quantity of orders or shipments under the LVS exception. A purchaser can have 12 shipments of \$500 each or 6,000 shipments of \$1 each.



0A501.y Products: Controlled but No License Required

These products will not require a license for shipments to most countries. A license is required for shipments to Cuba, Iraq, North Korea, Russia, Crimea region of Ukraine, Iran, Sudan, Syria, or for 0A501.y.7 products to China.

The products in ECCN 0A501.y are:

- 0A501.y.1: stocks or grips that do not contain any fire control parts or components such as triggers, hammers, sears, or disconnectors*
- 0A501.y.2: scope mounts or accessory rails*
- 0A501.y.3: iron sights*
- 0A501.y.4: sling swivels*
- 0A501.y.5: butt plates or recoil pads*
- 0A501.y.6: bayonets*
- 0A501.y.7: firearms manufactured from 1890 to 1898 and reproductions thereof*

**This includes parts, components, accessories, and attachments for these products.*

Note: Some of these products were previously EAR99 and some were previously classified under another ECCN or in the USML.

AES Filing Requirements

An EEI / AES filing is required for shipments of all of these products, regardless of the destination or value. The Commodity Description must start with the ECCN of the product.

EAR99 Products:

The following products are EAR99 and do not require a license (unless they are going to an embargoed country):

- Products that are not specially designed for use with firearms such as:
 - Screws
 - Nuts
 - Nut plates
 - Studs
 - Inserts
 - Clips
 - Rivets
 - Pins
 - Washers
 - Spacers
 - Insulators
 - Grommets
 - Bushings
 - Springs
 - Wires
 - Solders
- Antique firearms (manufactured before 1890) and reproductions thereof
- Shotguns made in or before 1898
- Muzzle loading black powder firearms, except those designs based on centerfire weapons of a post 1937 design
- BB guns, pellet rifles, paintball guns, air rifles
- Shotgun parts other than complete trigger mechanisms, magazines, magazine extension tubes, and complete breech mechanisms
- Parts for magazines under 51 rounds
- Compensators / muzzle brakes

These products do not require an EEI / AES filing unless the value is over \$2,500.

Specially Designed and Not-Specially Designed Parts:

The EAR states that an item is specially designed if:

1. As a result of “development” has properties peculiarly responsible for achieving or exceeding the performance levels, characteristics, or functions in the relevant ECCN or U.S. Munitions List (USML) paragraph; or
2. It is a “part,” “component,” “accessory,” “attachment,” or “software” for use in or with a commodity or defense article ‘enumerated’ or otherwise described on the CCL or the USML.

An item is not specially designed if it:

1. Has been identified to be in an ECCN paragraph that does not contain “specially designed” as a control parameter or as an EAR99 item in a commodity jurisdiction (CJ) determination or interagency-cleared commodity classification (CCATS) pursuant to § 748.3(e);
2. Is, regardless of ‘form’ or ‘fit,’ a fastener (e.g., screw, bolt*, nut, nut plate, stud, insert, clip, rivet, pin), washer, spacer, insulator, grommet, bushing, spring, wire, solder;
3. Has the same function, performance capabilities, and the same or ‘equivalent’ form and fit, as a commodity or software used in or with an item that: (i) Is or was in “production” (i.e., not in “development”); and (ii) Is either not ‘enumerated’ on the CCL or USML, or is described in an ECCN controlled only for Anti-Terrorism (AT) reasons;
4. Was or is being developed with “knowledge” that it would be for use in

- or with commodities or software (i) described in an ECCN and (ii) also commodities or software either not 'enumerated' on the CCL or the USML (e.g., EAR99 commodities or software) or commodities or software described in an ECCN controlled only for Anti-Terrorism (AT) reasons;
5. Was or is being developed as a general purpose commodity or software, i.e., with no "knowledge" for use in or with a particular commodity (e.g., an F/A-18 or HMMWV) or type of commodity (e.g., an aircraft or machine tool); or
 6. Was or is being developed with "knowledge" that it would be for use in or with commodities or software described (i) in an ECCN controlled for AT-only reasons and also EAR99 commodities or software; or (ii) exclusively for use in or with EAR99 commodities or software.

** This does not include a firearm bolt, which is specifically included in ECCN 0A501.c*



Products That Will Continue to Require an Export License

A license will continue to be required for the permanent export of:

- 0A501.a: Non-automatic and semi-automatic firearms equal to .50 caliber (12.7mm) or less. This includes combination guns. Please see 0A502 for shotguns.
- 0A501.b: Non-automatic and semi-automatic rifles, carbines, revolvers, or pistols with a caliber greater than .50 inches (12.7mm) but less than or equal to .72 inches(18.0mm)
- 0A501.c parts totaling over \$500
- 0A501.d parts totaling over \$500
- 0A501.e if shipping to a country other than Canada, regardless of value
- 0A501.e parts totaling over \$500 and shipping to Canada
- 0A501.x parts totaling over \$500
- 0A504.i riflescopes
- Items that will remain on the USML: fully automatic firearms and shotguns; Precision Guided Firearms; sound suppressors and their parts & components; barrels, receivers, frames bolts, bolt carriers, slides or sears for fully automatic firearms and shotguns or for firearms using caseless ammunition; magazines over 50 rounds and their parts & components; parts and components to convert a semiautomatic firearm into a fully automatic firearm.

The licensing requirements for optical sighting devices and shotguns depend on the destination country.

Some Key Differences Between DDTC and BIS

	Dept of State, DDTC	Dept of Commerce, BIS
Licensing System	DTrade (Changing to DECCS 2/18/20)	SNAP-R
Registration Cost	Annual Fee of \$2,250 or \$2,750	No charge
License Cost	Digital certificate + \$250 per license	No charge
NLR wording	Exemption	Exception
NLR Value limit	\$100	\$500
Registration Number	Registrant Code	CIN / Applicant ID
Applicable Regulations	International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR)	Export Administration Regulations (EAR)
List of Controlled Items	United States Munitions List (USML)	Commerce Control List (CCL)
Classification Determination	Commodity Jurisdiction (CJ) (requests are submitted in DECCS)	Commodity Classification Automated Tracking System (CCATS) (requests are submitted in SNAP-R)
Website	https://www.pmddtc.state.gov/ddtc_public	https://www.bis.doc.gov/index.php

List of Current and New Export Classifications

Product	Current USML Classification	New CCL Classification
Non-automatic and Semiautomatic Firearms equal to .50 caliber (12.7mm) or less (see ECCN 0A502 for shotguns)	I(a)	0A501.a
Non-automatic and Semiautomatic rifles, carbines, revolvers, or pistols with a caliber greater than .50 inches (12.7mm) but less than or equal to .72 inches (18.0mm)	I(a)	0A501.b
Firearms using caseless ammunition	I(a) or I(b)	n/a – this will be ITAR controlled under I(a)
Fully automatic firearms (.50 cal or less)	I(b)	n/a – these will remain ITAR controlled under I(b)
Fully automatic shotguns	I(d)	n/a – these will remain ITAR controlled under I(d)
Silencers, mufflers, and sound suppressors	I(e)	n/a – these will remain ITAR controlled under I(e)
Barrel, receivers (frames), bolts, bolt carriers, slides, sears specially designed for fully automatic firearms, fully automatic shotguns, or firearms using caseless ammunition	I(g)	n/a – these will remain ITAR controlled under I(g)
Barrels* (not including shotgun barrels), cylinders	I(g)	0A501.c
Barrel extensions, mounting blocks (trunnions), bolts*, bolt carriers*, operating rods, gas pistons, trigger housings, triggers, hammers, sears*, disconnectors, pistol grips that contain fire control parts or components, and buttstocks that contain fire control parts or components (not including shotgun parts – see 0A502)	I(h)	0A501.c
Magazines with a capacity greater than 50 rounds, regardless of the jurisdiction of the firearm, and specially designed parts and components therefor	I(h)	n/a – these will remain ITAR controlled under I(h)(1)

List of Current and New Export Classifications

Magazines with a capacity of 17-50 rounds (not including shotgun magazines – see 0A502)	l(h)	0A501.e
Receivers (frames)* and complete breech mechanisms	l(g)	0A501.e
Specially designed parts and components not listed above for firearms (not including shotgun parts – see 0A502)	l(h)	0A501.x
Magazine with a capacity of 16 rounds or less (not including shotgun magazines – see 0A502)	l(h)	0A501.x
Stocks or grips that do not contain any fire control parts or components	l(h) or n/a	0A501.y.2 (previously EAR99)
Scope mounts of accessory rails	n/a	0A501.y.2 (previously EAR99)
Iron sights	l(h) or n/a	0A501.y.3
Sling swivels	l(h) or n/a	0A501.y.4
Butt plates or recoil pads	n/a	0A501.y.5
Bayonets	n/a	0A501.y.6 (previously 0A918.b)
Firearms manufactured from 1890 to 1898	n/a	0A501.y.7
Non-specially designed parts and components for firearms (screws, nuts, nut plates, studs, inserts, clips, rivets, pins, washers, spacers, insulators, grommets, bushings, springs, wires, solders)	l(h)	EAR99
Parts for magazines	l(h)	EAR99
Shotguns (other than fully automatic)	l(d) if barrel is less than 18"	0A502 (previously 0A984 if barrel is 18" or longer)
Complete trigger mechanisms, magazines, magazine extension tubes, and complete breech mechanisms for shotguns	n/a	0A502 (previously 0A984)
Other parts for shotguns not listed above	n/a	EAR99

Registration Requirements

You must be registered with:

- **The Custom and Border Protection's ACE system for AES filings:**
<https://www.cbp.gov/trade/automated/getting-started>
Note: you must login at least every 30 days or your account will deactivate
- **The Department of Commerce's SNAP-R system for export licenses:**
<https://www.bis.doc.gov/index.php/licensing/simplified-network-application-process-redesign-snap-r>
- **The Department of State, DDTC***
**Only if you manufacture and/or export items that will stay on the USML or if you are a broker for items on the US Munitions Import List (USMIL) you must continue to be registered with the Department of State, DDTC:*
- **DTrade, the current licensing system:**
https://www.pmdrtc.state.gov/ddtc_public?id=ddtc_kb_article_page&sys_id=bae0d07bdb78d300d0a370131f961965
- **DECCS, the new licensing system starting on February 18, 2020:**
https://deccspmdrtc.service-now.com/deccs?id=ao_home
- **Please see this link for additional information to determine if you must be registered with DDTC:**
https://www.pmdrtc.state.gov/ddtc_public?id=ddtc_kb_article_page&sys_id=7110b98edbb8d30044f9ff621f96192d

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