International Travel & Export Controls (Chicago)
Resource Page - What You Need to Know in Less than 5 Minutes

- Complying with U.S. export regulations is required by law and University policy. Violations carry the possibility of fines, criminal sanctions, and reputational damage.
- UIC does not accept grants or contracts involving classified or restricted research and prohibits such work from being undertaken in the name of UIC, or using UIC facilities or resources. Restricted research includes any research where the sponsor limits access to the research by foreign nationals or limits the dissemination of results.

Assuming you are not doing export controlled research, then how export controls may apply to you depends upon 3 things:

1) Where you are going
- The Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) administers and enforces U.S. trade and economic sanctions. Check OFAC’s website to see if the countries you’ll be traveling to are listed and, if so, contact the OVCR for guidance.
- Cuba, Iran, Sudan, Syria and North Korea are subject to comprehensive sanctions. Even attending a conference in one of these countries without a license could be an export control violation, so be sure to contact the OVCR before you arrange travel to these destinations.

2) Who you are dealing with
- OFAC also enforces trade and economic sanctions against certain individuals and entities from targeted countries or who are involved in terrorism or narcotics trafficking.
- Before presenting your work or collaborating with a colleague overseas, or considering a relationship with a counterpart institution in another country, contact the Office of International Affairs to make sure the person, entity, or institution you or your unit seeks to work or partner with abroad is not subject to U.S. sanctions.

3) What you are taking with you
Be sure any items, equipment, research or technology you are taking is not subject to export controls. If you travel with a laptop, smart phone, GPS-enabled device, or similar technology remember:
- The items must be something you use in support of your work (i.e., a tool of your trade);
- Do not take the items to embargoed countries (i.e., Cuba, Iran, Syria, Sudan and North Korea);
- Keep the items under your personal, physical control at all times; and,
- Be sure you bring the items back to the U.S with you within 12 months.

Best practices when traveling with technology:
- Take only a password protected device swept clean of everything but typical software and minimal data. If your department does not have a “clean” device you can use during the trip, contact the Academic Computing and Communications Center.
- Avoid taking data with you and, if possible, remotely access your data securely over the network. This may not be permissible in some countries.
- Assume your data may become public or lost. Don’t carry research data or medical or financial information.
- Have a plan if your laptop or data is lost or seized.
- Have secure back up of your data when you travel.

For Help Please Contact

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