



Export Controls: Fighting the Spread of WMD and Strengthening Global Security

... the Australia Group contribution

Briefing by

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The Role of Export controls

- countries do not want to contribute to the proliferation of WMD
- and do not want to be exploited as a source of WMD materials and technologies
- effective controls on transfers of such sensitive goods are essential

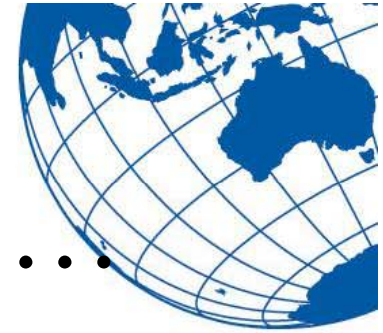




But what to control ...?

- a necessary starting point for controls is an understanding of what needs to be controlled
- many technical issues
- clarity helps implementation





Much work has been done ...

- The good news is that much work has been done
- Four groups created in response to particular challenges
 - Nuclear Suppliers Group
 - Missile Technology Control Regime
 - the Wassenaar Arrangement (for conventional arms)
 - the Australia group (chemical and biological)



The Australia Group



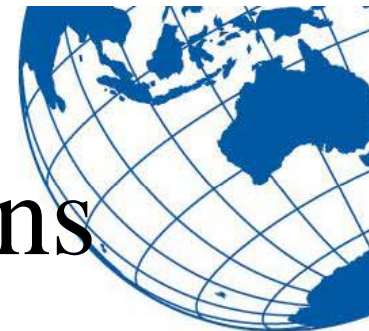
Foreign Affairs and Trade



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

www.dfat.gov.au

The Australia Group: origins



- Created in 1985
- In response to Iraq diverting otherwise legitimate trade in chemicals and equipment to the production of chemical weapons
- The Group now also looks at biological agents and equipment
 - In the absence of a verification body for the Biological Weapons Convention, the Australia Group's development of control lists covering materials and technology relevant to the production of biological weapons is the only harmonised form of control over these items.





Its structure ...

- The Group has grown from an original 16 to 40 countries plus the European Union
- Australia is the Chair and provides the Secretariat of the Australia Group
- The Group's control lists have become an international benchmark for best practice controls on chemical and biological agents and equipment





Objectives

- To ensure that exports do not contribute to the development of chemical or biological weapons
 - the broadest possible acceptance of harmonised national export control measures on certain chemicals, biological agents and dual-use equipment which can be used in chemical and biological weapons programs
 - thereby making it much more difficult for proliferators to exploit differences or ambiguities in national export controls to obtain items for the production of chemical and biological weapons



Link to BWC and CWC



- Helpful to countries in meeting their obligations under the Biological Weapons Convention and Chemical Weapons Convention
 - The BWC requires each State Party not to transfer to any recipient, and not to assist any country to manufacture, biological-weapons related agents, toxins or equipment (Article III)
 - The CWC requires each State Party to adopt necessary measures to ensure toxic chemicals are not produced or transferred for prohibited purposes (Article I and VI)





The Lists ...

- Australia Group has developed six common control lists which cover
 - Chemical weapons precursors
 - Dual-use chemical manufacturing facilities and equipment and related technology
 - Biological agents
 - Dual-use biological equipment and related technology;
 - Plant pathogens and
 - Animal pathogens.





Design of lists ...

- Should be effective in impeding the production of chemical and biological weapons
- Should be practical and reasonably easy to implement and
- Should not impede the normal trade of materials and equipment used for legitimate purposes





... and trade

The AG seeks to avoid restricting legitimate trade

- indeed committed to expanding trade in chemical and biological items for peaceful purposes
- and maintaining active chemical and biotechnological industries
- outreach to industry a key part of good practice – most keen to be compliant – reputational issues
- other key is to ensure licensing measures are consistent, transparent and publicly available



Membership of the AG



- Countries wishing to join the AG must
 - demonstrate commitment to preventing the spread of CBW proliferation including being a party in good standing to the CWC and BWC
 - adopt the AG Guidelines
 - implement and enforce national export controls on all items on the AG control lists
 - contribute to strengthening the effectiveness of the group in preventing CBW proliferation.
- The decision made on the basis of consensus.





Meetings ...

- The Australia Group meets annually in Paris
 - review proposals to strengthen the AG Guidelines, consider membership applications, review outreach activities and report on national implementation of Australia Group control lists
 - review the common control lists
 - share experience in implementation
 - exchange information on proliferation concerns
 - reviewing developments in the sciences.

(a key is fostering inter-agency collaboration)



The 2011 Plenary ...



- Continued focus on new and emerging chemical and biological weapon proliferation issues
 - terrorism, intangible transfers of technology and advances in corrosion-resistant materials and coatings
- Outreach and awareness-raising in industry and academia
- Modified the lists
 - to include certain de novo chemically synthesised genetic material and artificially-produced organism
 - and several other technical updates
- Finalised a booklet on Intangible Technology Transfers





AG Outreach

- Counter Proliferation goals will be advanced by the broadest possible use of the control lists
 - all exporting and transshipment countries are encouraged to implement similar measures to limit the spread of chemical and biological weapons
 - the Group has an extensive outreach program with participants conducting outreach activities in over 50 countries each year
 - many individual members have cooperation programs offering technical assistance and policy/legal models





Further Information ...

- Further information about the Australia Group can be found on the website at www.australiagroup.net
 - the website includes the Australia Group Guidelines, Common Control Lists, press releases and the Australia Group booklet
 - the booklet is available in all official UN languages (and German).

