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Ministry
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MOD FORM 680

Quick Guide

What is a MOD Form 680?

The MOD Form 680 is a security process that enables HMG to ensure the controlled release of classified equipment and information without compromising the UK's national security (including that of its Armed Forces) and foreign policy interests.

MOD has set a mandatory requirement for the control of the release by industry of equipment or information with a classification of OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE or above, including in their marketing campaigns to foreign end-users (this includes UK material classified RESTRICTED or above, graded prior to April 2014, and internationally security classified material). Control of release is therefore conducted through the MOD Form 680 application process.

It is a security procedure and does not constitute an indication or guarantee that an export licence from the Department for International Trade Export Control Joint Unit would be granted.

Who needs a MOD Form 680?

All UK companies must obtain MOD Form 680 approval in order to release information or equipment classified OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE and above to foreign entities. This includes internationally security classified material being released from the UK to foreign entities. Approval is also required for some material classified OFFICIAL, but only where the information or equipment connected with the release holds a higher classification. If both the equipment and information is classified OFFICIAL a MOD Form 680 is not required.

How do I obtain Private Venture Security Grading?

Further information can be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/414857/20150310_PV_Ex_Guidance_Document.pdf

What activity is covered by a MOD Form 680?

- Market Survey/Initial Discussions/Promotion
- Demonstration in the UK
- Demonstration Overseas
- Training
- Through Life Support (i.e. maintenance and repair)

How is a MOD Form 680 assessed?

All MOD Form 680 applications are assessed against three criteria that form part of the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria.

The three criteria under which MOD Form 680 applications are assessed take in to account the UK's national security and foreign policy interests. These are:

- Criterion One – UK's international obligations;
- Criterion Five – Security of the UK and its allies;
- Criterion Seven – Diversion to an undesirable end-user.

Further information can be found here:

<http://www.gov.uk/assessment-of-export-licence-applications-criteria-and-policy>

How do I apply?

MOD Form 680 applications should be made to the MOD team in the Export Control Joint Unit via the SPIRE portal here:

<https://www.spire.bis.gov.uk/eng/fox/espire/LOGIN/login>

How long does it take to assess an application?

The Government aims to respond to the majority of applications within 30 working days.

What happens if the Government has questions regarding my application?

Any questions from advisers will be sent to MOD who will then issue a Request for Information to the applicant via SPIRE.

What if I require a MOD Form 680 response quickly?

Applicants may request that their MOD Form 680 application is processed more quickly than the target processing time. They should give an explanation as to the reason for the urgency. However, there is no guarantee that an outcome can be given in a shorter timescale.

Where can I obtain more information?

Read the complete MOD Form 680 procedure guidance, containing further information about upcoming changes to the MOD Form 680:

<https://www.gov.uk/MOD-f680-applications>

Is there someone I can contact?

The ACP team in the Ministry of Defence can be contacted by e-mail: ECJU-MODTeam@mod.uk