

International Travel with Encrypted Mobile Devices – Import/Export Restrictions

I am traveling out of the country. Are there any import encryption restrictions for laptops, mobile phones, external drives, and other electronic media?

Please check with the embassy of the country you are leaving from and/or traveling to for the most up-to-date information. If you have encryption enabled on your device, please be sure to ask specifically about the regulations for encryption.

The following nations, including two Wassenaar signatories indicated by an asterisk (*), do not recognize a "personal use exemption."

Before traveling to these countries with an encrypted laptop, you will need to apply to their specified governmental agency for an import license:

- Belarus: a license issued by the Belarus Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the State Center for Information Security of the Security Council is required.
- Burma (Myanmar): a license is required, but licensing regime documentation is unavailable. Contact the U.S. State Department for further information.
- China: a permit issued by the Beijing Office of State Encryption Administrative Bureau is required.
- Hungary: an International Import Certificate is required. Contact the U.S. State Department for further information.
- Iran: a license issued by Iran's Supreme Council for Cultural Revolution is required.
- Israel: a license from the Director-General of the Ministry of Defense is required
- Kazakhstan: a license issued by Kazakhstan's Licensing Commission of the Committee of National Security is required.
- Moldova: a license issued by Moldova's Ministry of National Security is required.
- Morocco: a license is required, but licensing regime documentation is unavailable. Contact the U.S. State Department for further information.
- *Russia: licenses issued by both the Federal Security Service (FSB) and the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade are required. License applications should be submitted by an entity officially registered in Russia. This would normally be the company that is seeking to bring an encryption product into Russia.
- Saudi Arabia: it has been reported that the use of encryption is generally banned, but research has provided inconsistent information. Contact the U.S. State Department for further information.
- Tunisia: a license issued by Tunisia's National Agency for Electronic Certification (ANCE) is required.
- *Ukraine: a license issued by the Department of Special Telecommunication Systems and Protection of Information of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) is required.

Since laws can change at any time, please check with the U.S. State Department before travelling internationally to ensure that you have the most up-to-date information.

May I take my encrypted laptop when traveling internationally?

It depends. Because encryption products can be used for illegal purposes, including terrorist activity, the United States and many of the countries that you may visit may ban or severely regulate the import, export and use of encryption products. Taking your laptop with encryption software to certain countries without proper authorization could violate U.S. export law or the import regulations of the country to which you are traveling. As a result, your laptop could be confiscated and/or you may be fined or penalized.

A group of nations negotiated a set of rules known as the "Wassenaar Arrangement" attempting to facilitate traveling with encryption software. One of its provisions allows a traveler to freely enter a participating country with an encrypted device under a "personal use exemption" as long as the traveler does not create, enhance, share, sell or otherwise distribute the encryption technology while visiting.

Countries participating in the Wassenaar Arrangement include (subject to change): Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States.

***NOTE:** The Russian Federation and Ukraine agreed to many of the Wassenaar Arrangement's provisions, but they do not currently permit personal use exemptions.

I am traveling out of the country. What U.S. export controls do I need to satisfy when leaving the country with my encrypted laptop, mobile phones, external drives, and/or other electronic media?

The list below is subject to change. If you have encryption enabled on your device and you have questions, please contact OSPRI.

The Department of Commerce's Export Administration Regulations forbids the export of any encrypted device to any of the 5 countries list below.

- **Cuba**
- **Iran**
- **North Korea**
- **Sudan**
- **Syria**

If you must travel to one of the five embargoed countries, you may be able to obtain the appropriate export license, but the process takes time. Please contact OSPRI at exportcontrol@uccs.edu to discuss options.

What can I do if I cannot satisfy encryption export or import control requirements?

If you are not able to meet the import or export requirements for a country you are about to visit, we recommend working with campus OIT to remove the encryption software from your laptop prior to traveling.