



Norwegian Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs

Summary in English

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# Norwegian exports of defence- related products in 2018, export control and international non-proliferation cooperation

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# 1 Background and summary

This white paper describes Norway's export control system for strategic goods and technology,<sup>1</sup> and provides figures for exports of arms, ammunition and other military equipment and components, related technology and services for military use (shortened to 'defence-related products' in the rest of this document) in 2018.

The Government has published an annual white paper on exports of defence-related products since 1996, making this the 24th in the series. As well as providing information about the exports themselves, the white paper gives a thorough account of the Government's export control policy, the legislation and the guidelines for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs when dealing with applications concerning the export of defence-related products. Transparency in this area has been significantly increased since 1996. The Government is seeking to promote the highest level of transparency on strategic export control in order to provide insight into this part of Norwegian defence and security policy.

Norway has extensive and stringent rules in place for the export of defence-related products. This year's white paper gives a thorough account of the export control legislation, and aims in particular to provide insight into how the Ministry applies the guidelines for dealing with licence applications in practice.

Both the defence industry and export control are integral parts of Norway's defence and security policy. One of the aims is to ensure that the Norwegian defence industry is viable and thus provides security of supply both for Norway's armed forces and for those of allied countries. Companies in the Norwegian defence industry are world leaders in defence-related technology and expertise. They are dependent on being able to export their goods and participate in international cooperation on defence-related development and production. The Government will continue to provide a clear and predictable framework for the export activities of defence industry companies.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the authority responsible for export control in Norway. Its tasks in this area include policy development, licensing, provision of information to the industry, and participation in extensive international cooperation on export control. In addition, the Police Security Service and Norwegian Customs have statutory responsibilities relating to control of goods and enforcement of the export control legislation, including prevention and investigation of breaches of the legislation. Cooperation at national level is vital for ensuring that the export control system is effective and for preventing the spread of products and technology that could be used for the development of weapons of mass destruction or for the purposes of terrorism.

Norway's export control system was digitalised in 2015. The Ministry uses an e-licensing system to deal with applications, requests and reports concerning the export of strategic goods. The e-licensing system makes it possible to safeguard substantial amounts of commercially sensitive information, and to undertake quality assurance of the large amount of information on actual exports of defence-related products from Norway.

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<sup>1</sup> 'Strategic goods' is a collective term for defence-related products, dual-use items and other civilian goods that are also considered to have important military applications.

Export licences issued for defence-related products and dual-use items for military use require exporters to provide quarterly reports on actual exports under each licence. The overview of exports in the white paper is based on the exporters' reports of the goods, technology and services actually exported under the licences that have been issued.

### *Transparency on defence-related exports*

Together with the detailed account of the export control legislation and the implementation of the Foreign Ministry's guidelines, the overview of exports and the information about export licence denials each year ensure a high degree of transparency on exports of defence-related products from Norway.

The annual white paper is considered each year by the Storting (Norwegian parliament). This process provides public and parliamentary access to information about how the Ministry's guidelines are applied in practice. The Government will continue its practice of consulting the Storting in special cases.

As in 2018, Norway's annual report to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and an English summary of the white paper will be published in 2019.

While the Government is seeking to ensure as much transparency as possible on exports of defence-related products from Norway, access to information in this area is subject to the restrictions that follow from the provisions on the duty of secrecy in the Export Control Act. Under the Act, everyone has a duty to provide the Ministry with the assistance or information required to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Act and appurtenant regulations. This duty applies to all information that the Foreign Ministry considers necessary to be able to process licence applications. This broad right to require access to commercially sensitive information is counterbalanced by the Act's strict provisions on the duty of secrecy.

### *Legislation and guidelines*

Control of the export of strategic goods, services and technology is governed by the Export Control Act and regulations. In addition, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has specific guidelines for dealing with applications concerning the export of defence-related products, as well as technology and services for military purposes, and these have been published.

According to a Royal Decree of 18 December 1987, the Ministry exercises the authority assigned to the King under the Export Control Act. One of its tasks is to draw up regulations and guidelines.

The Act of 18 December 1987 relating to control of the export of strategic goods, services, technology, etc (Export Control Act) provides the legal authority for export control.

'Strategic goods' is a collective term for defence-related products and dual-use items and is defined in the Export Control Act as 'goods and technology that may be of significance for other countries' development, production or utilisation of products for military use or that may directly serve to develop the military capability of a country, including goods and technology that can be used to carry out terrorist acts.'