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## **International Encryption Control: Navigating Differing Regulations and Exceptions**

Overcoming Licensing and Classification Challenges and Implementing a Global Compliance Program

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Today's faculty features:

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# Encryption Export Controls: Navigating Differing Regulations

*Strafford Publications Webinar*  
*August 19, 2014*

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*Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton*

***Martina de la Torre***  
***Bill Vawter***  
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# Agenda

- Introduction
- Overview of US encryption controls
- Chinese and other non-US controls
- Compliance Strategies
- Questions

# Vigorous Enforcement

- Civil fines
- Criminal fines
- Imprisonment
- Denial of export privileges

# Encryption Background

- What is encryption?
  - Used to maintain secrecy of data
  - Protect against security breaches
  - May be hardware or software

# Encryption Background

- How controlled?
  - Controlled by US Commerce Department, Bureau of Industry & Security (unless specifically designed for military / space application)
  - Export Administration Regulations (EAR)



# Background (cont'd)



- Why controlled?
  - Protect national security
  - Preserve US technology advantages
  - Previously controlled under the ITAR

# Relevant Regulatory Provisions

- EAR Part 774, Supplement 1 – Commerce Control List
  - Encryption items covered by Category 5, Part 2
  - CCL spells out whether license is required for particular country

# Regulatory Provisions (cont'd)

- EAR Part 742.15 – Encryption Items
  - Licensing Requirements
  - Registration Requirements
    - Mass Market Treatment
  - Self-classification reporting
  - Grandfathering of previously classified *mass market* products

# Regulatory Provisions (cont'd)

- EAR Part 740.17 – License Exception ENC
  - Principal License Exception available for encryption products
    - Some notification requirements; in other cases, no notification required
    - 30-day wait may be necessary too
    - Some semi-annual reporting requirements

# Regulatory Provisions (cont'd)

- EAR Part 740.13 – License Exception TSU
  - Another License Exception available for encryption products
    - For open source / community source encryption
    - Exception generally available if underlying export is permitted

# Other Regulatory Provisions

- License Exceptions BAG and TMP (part 740)
- Special *de minimis* rules (part 734.4)
- Unique definition of “export” for certain encryption exports (part 734.2)

# Encryption Classification

- Does hardware / software use or contain cryptography?
  - If no, not controlled for ENC purposes
  - If yes, continue analysis and recognize exceptions:
    - Medical use?
    - Eligible for self-classification?
    - Exports to a foreign affiliate?
    - Other?

# Encryption Licensing

- When no prior review for ENC has been performed
- Certain high-level encryption items
- Cryptanalytic items to government end users
- Exports to E:1 countries

# Chinese and Other Non-US Controls



# General Concepts

- “Import” versus “use” encryption controls
  - Determines who is responsible for licenses
- “Registration” versus “testing” encryption controls
- Regulations may stem from different government organizations with concurrent jurisdiction
  - Defense
  - Customs
  - Law enforcement/state security/intelligence agencies
  - Information security/technology agencies
  - Special purpose encryption control agencies

# Jurisdictions

- Most aggressively regulating encryption imports: China, France, Hong Kong, Israel, and Russia
- Many others do not actively enforce restrictions (e.g., South Africa)
- Country information resources
  - Steptoe and Johnson LLP (InternatLaw LLC) offers a country-by-country guide subscription service
  - Local country legal counsel and embassies
  - Crypto Law Survey (<http://www.cryptolaw.org/>)
    - Not authoritative

# Israeli Import Controls

- Restricts import and use of encryption hardware, software (tangible and intangible), and technology
- Controls administered by Israeli Ministry of Defense
- Few exceptions, except for internal business or personal use
  - Encryption products subject to inspection and seizure
- Licensing is a simple process that typically takes less than 30 days
  - Application must disclose encryption algorithms

# Hong Kong Import Controls

- Restricts encryption import (not use)
- Controls administered by HK Trade and Industry Department and enforced by HK Customs
- Exemptions
  - Intangible transfers/electronic software delivery
  - Authentication only products (ECCN 5D992.b)
  - Mass market encryption products (ECCN 5D992.c)
  - HK is not a Wassenaar signatory, but issues other exceptions in line with the Arrangement

# French Import Controls

- Tightly controls encryption import and supply to third parties, but not use
- Agence Nationale de la Sécurité des Systèmes d'Information (ANSSI) issues licences
  - May require source code or samples
  - Applications must be in French, local counsel recommended
  - At least one month processing time

# French Controls (cont'd)

## ■ Exemptions

- Many mass market (ECCN 5D992.c) products remain controlled
- Both tangible and intangible transfers remain controlled
- Authentication-only and “products using encryption only for administration, management or configuration of a computer system” are exempt
  - ANSSI is primarily concerned with encryption of end-user messages and documents both at rest and in transit.
  - Control Plane (infrastructure) versus Data Plane (user information)
  - Vague and sometimes difficult to apply in practice

# Russian Import Controls

- Broad controls on import, use, distribution, maintenance, and development of encryption products
- Administered with great discretion by the Federal Security Service (FSB) and Ministry of Industry and Trade (MIT)
  - Legislation grants concurrent jurisdiction
  - FSB controls the process and must grant permission before license application can be submitted to MIT
  - Local counsel recommended to monitor application process

# Chinese Regulatory Environment

- Government officials and ministries view regulations as public statements of their enforcement intent
- Government often communicates desired policy outcomes through unofficial channels
- Public sector is a unique ecosystem with multiple, sometimes conflicting power bases
  - National, regional, provincial, and local governments can all exert independent authority

# Chinese Environment (cont'd)

- Policies and enforcement patterns can change unexpectedly with limited official explanation of policy evolution or rationale
- Regulatory process does not constrain policy outcomes
- No independent judiciary to adjudicate disputes with regulators

# Chinese Environment (cont'd)

- Constraints on government discretion
  - Individual officials or less influential ministries constrained by the policy decisions of more powerful government entities
    - Tendency toward relative uniformity
  - If regulatory controls are too unpredictable they will discourage foreign investment
  - Foreign companies may be the best supplier of a particular product, with no competitive domestic replacement

# Chinese Environment (cont'd)

- Government wields substantial power as China's largest single customer
  - State controls estimated 50 percent of total GDP as a market participant
  - Complete control of “vital sectors” such as banking and infrastructure
  - Influential ministries can take companies or specific products off of their acceptable purchase list
    - Can create a chilling affect across the public sector

# Chinese Import Controls

- Due to regulatory environment, ongoing communication with the government is critical for interpreting controls
- Two primary government entities with relatively independent jurisdiction
  - State Encryption Management Bureau (SEMB)
  - Ministry of Public Security (MoPS)

# Chinese Controls (cont'd)

- SEMB controls products with encryption as “core function”
  - Chinese entities and citizens are forbidden to use these products
  - Only Foreign Invested Entities (FIEs) or foreign individuals may use encryption products after they obtain a permit from SEMB
    - No permit required for foreign company to sell to FIE, but importer should implement screening process

# Chinese Imports (cont'd)

- MoPS controls products that have information security functionality, but do not have encryption as core function
  - Focus is more on consumer protection for open sale
- Importer must first identify MoPS category code and test standard
- Importer must work with MoPS to test product against criteria
- MoPS will issue test certificate and license
- Stickers may be required for physical products

# Compliance Strategies



# Comply with Global Controls

- Take steps to ensure compliance with US encryption control laws and encryption laws of other countries
  - Investigate encryption regulations of other countries
    - Laws that regulate encryption may be “use”, sales, import, or export control (dual-use) related
    - Manufacturers comply with, France, Israel, China regulations
    - Manufacturers/Importers can comply with
      - Russia regulations related to import of products containing encryption
      - Hong Kong import registration requirements

# Communicate Classification Information

- Communicate export control information to your internal customers: sales, marketing, shipping and to third party fulfillment partners
- Post information to be used by your external customers
  - Export Control Classification Numbers (ECCN)
  - EAR Paragraphs (740.17.b.1, for example)
  - Commodity Classification Tracking System number CCATS
  - List relevant Authorization types: MMKT, ENC, NLR

# Steps to Ensure Global Compliance

- Once you have classified your products....
  - Assign appropriate export or import classification numbers, codes/attributes to your products, items or skus in your Product or SKU master
  - Assign/append the classifications from all countries, the import approval numbers and information regarding other country approvals
    - Expiration/renewal dates

# Compliance Steps (cont'd)

- Assign/append flags/indicators related to
  - Encryption classifications to help you identify transactions (using such products) that will subsequently need to be reported or that might need an export license
  - Customer records to support encryption definitions related to “government”, military, police, state security, commercial, or academic type “customers/end users”

# Steps to Ensure Licensing Compliance

- Supplement No. 3 to Part 740 – License Exception ENC, Favorable Treatment Countries
- Transactions for End Users in countries not included in Supplement No. 3
  - Ensure that products classified as 5X002, EAR 740.17.b.2 will not be sold under License Exception ENC to Government (Military or Police) end users in countries not included in Supplement No. 3 to Part 740
    - Obtain export license for transactions that do not qualify under the terms and conditions listed under 740.17.b.2

# Licensing Compliance (cont'd)

- Invest in a trade compliance screening system/solution to help you:
  - Identify and stop transactions that may require an export license based on ECCN and / or End User
    - Government
    - Military
    - Police/State Security
  - Identify transactions that may need to be reported to relevant government authorities
    - Government, Commercial, Private, Academic
  - Manage Export Licenses

# Government Reports

- Ensure you comply with relevant reporting obligations for your exports and re-exports
  - US ENC Report for 740.17(b)(2) and 740.17(b)(3)(iii)
    - Semi-annual reporting is required for exports to all destinations other than Canada
  - Singapore License Reporting
  - Other Global License/Open License Reports – EU
- US annual self-classification report
  - Items exported under ENC - 740.17(b)(1)
  - Items exported under Mass Market - 742.15(b)(1)

# US Re-Export Controls

- US Re-export controls
  - Ensure that if your US origin product, technology or software, subject to the EAR, will be exported or re-exported from another country, such export or re-export will comply with US encryption-related export licensing controls
    - Any controls that apply to exports also apply to re-exports!
  - Reporting requirements apply to all re-exports, including re-exports from Canada!

# Thank You!

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