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Summary Definition of Arms Export Control Act (AECA) and International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR)

The U.S. Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778), implemented by the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (22 CFR 120-130)("ITAR"), and administered by the State Department's Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (ITAR 122.12)("DDTC"), prohibits the export (ITAR 120.17) and temporary import (ITAR 120.18) of defense articles (ITAR 120.6) and technical data (ITAR 120.10), and the provision of defense services (ITAR 120.8) to foreign persons (ITAR 120.16) by all persons in the United States and by U.S. persons (ITAR 120.15) wherever located, unless authorized in advance by a DDTC-issued export license or an ITAR exemption (ITAR 123.1). Any person in the USA who manufactures or exports defense articles or furnishes defense services to foreign persons must register with DDTC (ITAR 122.1(a). Violations are punishable by fines, imprisonment, and debarment (ITAR 127.3).