

TRANSFER OF MOD FORM 680 TO SPIRE

The MOD is transferring applications for its Form 680 to SPIRE, the online export licensing system run by the Export Control Organisation of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Purpose of the MOD Form 680

The MOD Form 680 is the means used by the Government to consider the release of classified information held by defence companies for use in export promotion. It also allows defence companies to obtain an indication of the Government's view about a subsequent export licence application, which can help direct their marketing efforts.

Applying for F680 via SPIRE

Applications for MOD Form 680 clearance on SPIRE will start on 27 April 2009 for a small group of companies that are participating in an initial phase. All other companies will start to apply online on SPIRE from 18 May. If MOD has not contacted a company about participating in the initial phase that company will not be able to start applying for Form 680 clearance on SPIRE until 18 May. After 18 May new applications can only be made online. MOD will complete the processing of existing applications under the present system whereby applicants receive their outcome letter by e-mail.

Companies will be able to apply for Form 680 clearance by logging on to the Department for Business's SPIRE website in the same way as they do when applying for an export licence. A new user option will open up the online Form 680 application form. The SPIRE website homepage is at www.spire.berr.gov.uk

Register for SPIRE

A company will need to be registered on SPIRE before it can apply online for Form 680 clearance. If a company is not already registered it can log on to the SPIRE homepage and click on 'Registering Your Company', which provides information on how to register.

In early May, MOD will send defence companies a detailed guidance document with screenshots showing how to apply for Form 680 clearance via SPIRE. This guidance document will also be published on the ECO website and on SPIRE.

Why SPIRE?

Transferring Form 680 applications to SPIRE will have advantages for the defence industry. There will be one portal for applying for export clearances including export licences, ratings and Form 680s. SPIRE is a proven, integrated IT-based system that will support the F680 process from application to outcome letter. The new online Form 680 application form will require exporters to supply the same information as in the present form.

More Information

Companies can obtain further information from the EPA (formerly DESP) desk officers who normally deal with their Form 680 applications. Companies can also telephone our helpline on 020 7305 2521/2518/2519 or e-mail us at newf680@desp.mod.uk

Please note that the Directorate of Export Services Policy (DESP) has changed its name to Export Policy and Assurance (EPA). Telephone numbers remain unchanged. E-mail addresses are due to be updated after June 2009.

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