

MOD Form 680 Procedure

The MOD Form 680 procedure is a security process administered by the Ministry of Defence (MOD). It is the means used by the Government to consider applications for the release of classified information held by companies for use in export promotion.

All F680 applications are assessed against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria, by specialists in the MOD, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and where sustainable development issues are concerned, the Department for International Development.

Security-cleared companies (List X contractors) are required to obtain F680 clearance before promoting or entering into any contractual commitments involving the sale of protectively marked defence equipment or technology overseas which is **RESTRICTED or above**.

For companies about to embark on a marketing campaign the F680 gives an indication of whether an export licence would be likely to be approved, and thereby can identify any concerns regarding possible future supply. An F680 approval does not remove the need for an export licence for the actual supply, nor does it guarantee that a licence would be approved (because the circumstances may have changed in the intervening period). However, it may help to speed up the processing of a future licence application.

Where MOD bodies act in a commercial capacity they apply for F680 clearance, for example, the Disposal Services Authority where it wishes to market surplus MOD equipment to overseas entities.

It is a requirement of certain Open General Export Licences (OGEL) (published by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills) where protectively marked assets are to be exported that prior approval is obtained via an F680. In the case of the OGEL (Military Goods: For Demonstration) an F680 is required for all exports, not only protectively marked items.

The F680 process also has a further secondary purpose in respect of Government support to a company's marketing efforts to overseas entities. An F680 must have been approved before the Government will give support to an export campaign (usually through UKTI Defence and Security Organisation). Defence companies are required to have an F680 clearance in place to participate in an inward visit or an event abroad, such as a defence industry day, organised by the Government.

Further information

The F680 application form and guidance notes are available on SPIRE online system www.spire.bis.gov.uk and information on Business Link www.businesslink.gov.uk. The MOD point of contact for F680 applications is CapEPA-CW2C2@mod.uk, telephone 020 721 89080.

Company staff may also ask their export control or compliance manager for details.

Export Policy and Assurance, Ministry of Defence