



TEXAS A&M RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Serving Those Who Provide The Future

Traveling with Texas A&M Research Foundation Owned Laptops or Other "Tools of Trade"

License Exception "TMP" [15 CFR Part 740.9](#)

TAMRF and JRSO personnel often travel internationally in conjunction with their University responsibilities. In recent years, there has been increased government concern regarding University research activities and national security. It is important that the TAMU community demonstrates awareness of foreign travel risks when traveling abroad on behalf of the institution.

Travelers are responsible for knowing how export controls apply when taking equipment, devices, software or technical data outside the US. In most situations, licensing is not required to take TAMRF owned items abroad under the TMP "tools of trade" license exception. However items such as laptops must remain under the traveler's effective control during the trip. Additionally, information and data taken on laptops, PDA's or storage devices must qualify as public domain. Other items such as research samples and devices, systems or software originally designed for military or space applications (such as a camera with a focal plane array or a high end GPS), technology associated with strong encryption and controlled biological agents will not qualify for this exemption.

If U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials suspect that a regulated item or defense article has been or will be exported without a license, they may, examine files and software on laptop computers as well as baggage. In addition, inspectors in other countries may detain and copy hard drives. All international travelers are encouraged to back up their hard-drives, remove all non-essential data from their devices prior to departing the United States.

To qualify for the "tools of trade" exception, the export must:

- Be for less than one year.
- Be a piece of equipment that people in the traveler's discipline would generally recognize as a "tools of trade."
- Be under the traveler's effective control. This means that the item must be kept in the traveler's physical possession at all times, or secured in a hotel safe, a bonded warehouse, or a locked conference facility.
- The travel cannot include a sanctioned country (Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Syria or Sudan).

Travelers should not take ANY of the following without first obtaining specific advice:

- Data or information received under an obligation of confidentiality.
- Devices, equipment or computer software received with restrictions on export to or on access by foreign nationals.
- Devices, systems or software specifically designed or modified for military or space applications (even if these items are used in academic research setting).

Please contact the ECO by email at export@iodp.tamu.edu with questions regarding the applicability of the TMP license exception.

Personal electronics may be eligible for the baggage "BAG" exemption. See [15 CFR 740.14](#) for details.



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Export License Exception Certification TMP – 15 CFR Part 740.9 Temporary Imports, Exports and Reexports

Tools of Trade: [15 CFR Part 740.9 \(a\) \(1\)](#)
Exemption from EEI Filing: [15 CFR Part 30.37 \(b\)](#)

Name of Traveler: _____ Date of Trip: _____

Description of items, technology or software to which this certification applies:

Asset Tag #	Description	Manufacturer	Model No.	Serial No.

Please include Asset Tag # and Serial Number when possible.

By my signature below, I certify that:

- Items will be hand-carried to _____ as “tools of trade” to conduct Texas A&M business only.
- Items will return to the U.S. on or before _____ which is no later than one (1) year from the date of export.
- Items will not be exported to Iran, Syria, Cuba, North Korea or Sudan.
- Items will remain under my “effective control” while abroad.
- Security precautions will be taken to protect against release of technology while abroad. These include:
 - Use of secure connections when accessing email and other business activities
 - Use of password systems on electronic devices that store technology
 - Use of firewalls on electronic devices that store the technology

Travelers Signature: _____ Date: _____

***Please review, complete, and sign this certification. Email a copy to the ECO @ export@iodp.tamu.edu
Carry one copy with luggage to present to Customs if requested or in the event of a search.***