

About Us



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Chamber International

Preferred supplier of international trade services to Chambers of Commerce

Post: Chamber International
Devere House
Vicar Lane
Little Germany
Bradford BD1 5AH
Tel: 0845 034 7200
Fax: 01274 771587
Email: sales@chamber-international.com
Web: www.chamber-international.com



How to - understand International Import Certificates



Chamber International 'How to Guide'

International Import Certificates (IIC's)

It is probably helpful at the beginning of this "How to" guide to point out that the use of this document has diminished to such an extent that many people in the world of export and import compliance have never heard of it.

First of all let us define the purpose of the document in simple terms. If you are an importer in (say) the United Kingdom and your supplier in, for example, Belgium, requires you to provide them with an International Import Certificate (IIC) it means that they are applying for an Export Licence from the Belgian authorities to allow them to ship the goods which you have ordered from them from Belgium to the UK. They will receive the IIC from you and submit it with their licence application to the Belgian licensing authority. The Belgian licensing authority will have the comfort of a legally binding statement made by you via your local Chamber of Commerce in the UK. This statement is as follows :-

"Declaration The importer above undertakes that the goods described will be imported into the United Kingdom, will not be diverted, transhipped or re-exported to another destination except under the authority of an export licence issued by the Department of Trade & Industry and that the proof of their importation

(see Note 2) will be produced on request. The importer undertakes to notify the issuing Chamber of Commerce immediately of any material change of fact or intention in relation to this application. I make this declaration both on my own behalf and on behalf of the Importer, by whom I am authorised to make this declaration. I am aware of provisions of the Export of Goods (Control) Order as amended"

This declaration is preceded by **three notes** which are (as in the case of the declaration above) reproduced in full as follows :-

Note 1 This certificate is only valid for goods which are subject to control under the Export of Goods (Control) Order.

Note 2 Proof of entry can be obtained from Revenue and Customs under form C595 on website www.hmrc.gov.uk

Note 3 If the goods are to be re-exported to any destination, an import certificate will not normally be issued until application for an export licence has been made.

Background Commentary

If you are familiar with Export Control territory you will understand that when your supplier asks for an IIC he is in a

business which deals in 'Controlled' goods, which means that the goods are caught by either a Military List, administered by the suppliers' national licensing authority, or by a Dual-Use list. These lists are in place to act as a strategic mechanism to keep sensitive technologies in the right hands rather than possible WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction) activity such as chemical, biological and nuclear weapons and the means of delivering same.

Previous references to IIC's may have referred to COCOM (Co-ordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls) which was the club of countries formed in the late 1940's to protect the free world from the Communist threat by keeping sensitive technologies in the 'free world' club. When the Berlin Wall came down in the 1980's as one newspaper put it "There has been a serious outbreak of peace" and not long after that event COCOM was disbanded.

New enemies are never far away in this troubled world and to combat those enemies a new club was formed known as 'The Wassenaar Arrangement' tasked with setting the technological levels at which export licences would be required to move such goods across frontiers, this list is referred to as the Dual-Use list which is a slightly misleading title as it tempts people to think the controlled list is of goods that can be used in civil or military applications, this would be a gross over simplification.

Wassenaar is a small town on the Rhine and the members of the Wassenaar Arrangement consist of the 27 member states of the E.C./EU plus Australia, Canada, Norway, Japan Switzerland, New Zealand and the USA a grand total of 34 countries.

Diversion of sensitive goods and technology has long been a source of aggravation and various methods of reducing it have been tried, the International Import Certificate was devised as a way of making intermediate parties take more responsibility for keeping 'controlled goods' in compliance with the destination allowed by the export licence.

Applying for an International Import Certificate

Visit www.chamber-international.com for details of the application procedure or telephone 0845 034 7200.

Footnote: The U.K Export licensing authority for strategic goods is the Export Control Organisation (ECO) which is a section of the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) web site:- www.bis.gov.uk/ Europe & World Trade.