HEECA The Higher Education Export Control Association

Membership Updates – February 2025

UK Home Office Publishes New Guidance: Understanding the National Security Act 2023

The UK Government has released new guidance to help organisations recognise and mitigate state threats under the **National Security Act 2023**. The resource outlines:

- **Understanding State Threats** – How foreign governments may seek to undermine the UK's security and interests through espionage, sabotage, or interference.
- **Recognising State Actor Approaches** – Key warning signs of hostile actors attempting to exploit access to sensitive information.
- **Conducting Due Diligence** – Steps to ensure organisations do not inadvertently assist foreign powers in activities against the UK.

While directed broadly at security professionals, the guidance highlights key themes that academia and research institutions alike should consider when working internationally. The guidance also signposts to further resources and guidance across MI5, GOV.UK, and NPSA to support awareness and risk mitigation.

Read the full guidance here.

New HEECA Resource: Security Subgroup – First Collective Output Release!

Following our initial update introducing the HEECA Security Subgroup back in September last year, the group which consists of members from MOD, DSTL, NPSA, NPL and 7 HEIs has been meeting regularly and this month is pleased to release the first collective output - a compiled **Security Resources** document, which uniquely brings together publicly available resources in one location.

This initial output will support HEI practitioners, enabling quick access to key information and guidance in this area from trusted sources, including government websites. **Check out the new resource here.**

The subgroup is continuing to work through a roadmap of activities and work is currently ongoing on the development of further user-friendly resources. We look forward to providing members with further updates as we progress.

New HEECA Toolkit: Streamlining Your Internal Export Licence Compliance

Managing export licences effectively is crucial, but keeping track can be complex. Our newly released resource provides a step-by-step guide on building an internal compliance framework using MS Teams and SharePoint to support your licence tracking process, helping your organisation stay organised and reduce risk.

With thanks and credit to the **University of Leeds** for developing and sharing this resource with HEECA organisations.

Enhance your compliance management today and **access the toolkit here**.

Latest Higher Education Security Forum (HESF) – Update from HESF Co-Chairs

The Higher Education Security Forum (HESF) was formed a few years ago, alongside HEECA, to promote increased coordination, dialogue and partnership between academia and government. HEECA is one of the associations that has membership in this forum.

HESF members meet once a quarter, and a new initiative to assist in the dissemination of information has started, consisting of a publication of a brief note from the Co-Chairs.

Find the latest edition here.

New HEECA Resource: Export Licence End User Responsibilities – Letter of Assurance Template

To help ensure compliance and mitigate risks associated with the sharing of export-controlled items, we are pleased to share a new template pack developed and designed to provide clear guidance on the responsibilities of end users when receiving items from your organisation under an export licence.

- **Template 1** – For internal use within your institution. This template ensures all university staff involved in export licences understand their responsibility to inform colleagues about the compliance requirements for handling export-controlled items.

- **Template 2** – For external use with collaborators/visitors. This template outlines their specific responsibilities, including authorised use, confidentiality, safeguarding, and reporting breaches of the licence.

Access the full template pack here.

EC Release 2025 Report Highlighting EU's Approach to Export Controls of Dual-Use Items

The **European Commission (EC)** has released a report on dual-use export controls, highlighting significant trends in the authorisation and denial of sensitive goods exports across EU Member States. The report, mandated by the **modernised EU Export Control Regulation**, is the first of its kind and offers a thorough overview of 2022 export data, with insights into 2023 and 2024 developments.

In 2022, EU Member States authorised dual-use exports worth €57.3 billion, , while also denying exports valued at €0.98 billion (831 cases) due to security concerns. This marks a notable increase in scrutiny compared to 2021, with a rise in both the volume of authorisations and the frequency of denials.

The report also includes detailed licensing data, allowing for a better understanding of how export controls are applied, and the risks identified relating to exports of sensitive items in the current geopolitical context.

Access the full report here.

U.S. DOJ Announce New Final Rule: Restrictions on Access to Sensitive Personal Data by Entities in Countries of Concern

The **U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)** has announced a **final rule** to implement **Executive Order 14117** on 28th February 2024 (Preventing Access to Americans' Bulk Sensitive Personal Data and United States Government-Related Data by Countries of Concern), by prohibiting and restricting certain data transactions with certain countries or persons.

The rule targets entities from countries of concern, such as China and Russia, that may gain access to sensitive data like precise geolocation, health information, financial data and biometric identifiers, and prohibits certain transactions involving entities from these countries if they involve the transfer or access to bulk sensitive personal data of U.S. citizens, or to U.S. government-related data.

The rule is intended to become effective on 8th April 2025, with further requirements set to come into effect by 6th October 2025.

Read the full release here.
