APPLICATION INFORMATION FOR URANIUM AND THORIUM (CONTROLLED ORE) EXPORT PERMISSION

Exports of uranium, thorium, depleted uranium, monazite, tantalum concentrates, tantalum glass, zircon and other materials that contain 500 parts per million (0.05% by weight) or more of uranium and thorium combined are subject to control under Regulation 9 of the Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulations 1958 and are regarded as ‘controlled materials’.

Accordingly, export permission needs to be obtained from the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science for any export of these materials.

The need to control these exports reflects Australia’s stringent nuclear safeguards requirements, including the need to ensure that Australia’s non-proliferation requirements and obligations are met with regard to the export of ores, concentrates and residues which contain practicably recoverable concentrations of nuclear material.

Any person/company wishing to export a ‘controlled material’ should write to the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science formally requesting approval for the proposed export and include the following information in their application:

- a brief background on the exporting company and the export opportunity;
- a description, including the source, of the material and a chemical data sheet (or similar);
- gross weight;
- uranium and thorium content;
- proposed export quantity, export arrangements, when the export(s) might take place, and whether this is likely to be a one-off export or whether it is part of a longer term export arrangement; and
- commercial benefits resulting from the proposed export (e.g. approximate export value).

A pro-forma application can be obtained by contacting the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science – the Department encourages applicants to use this application where possible.

The Department of Industry, Innovation and Science also requires a statement from the intended traders and/or end-user(s) of the material. This statement must include the following information:

- ownership and operations of the end-user;
- the intended use and disposal of Australian material imported by end-user (including advice on whether there will be any re-exports);
the intended use and/or disposal of the nuclear material content (thorium and uranium) of the
Australian material, including possible:

– final disposal as irrecoverable waste;
– storage as recoverable waste;
– extraction of the nuclear material for any nuclear purpose; and
– re-export in any form;

• ownership and location of waste containing nuclear material; and

• government controls and arrangements for storage and/or disposal of nuclear material content.

A pro-forma end user statement can be obtained by contacting the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science. The Department intends to make this pro-forma end user statement available at https://www.industry.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx.

Additional information is required from persons/companies wishing to export ‘controlled material’ directly, or indirectly, to China. The following information is needed to ensure Australia satisfies its reporting obligations pursuant to Annex D of the Australia-China Nuclear Transfer Agreement:

• receiver name, address and contact details of senior representative (including all import agents and end-users);
• intermediate processor in third country (if applicable); and
• projected monthly delivery schedule.

In assessing your application, the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science works closely with the Australian Safeguards and Non-Proliferation Office (ASNO). Prior to lodging an application, you may wish to contact ASNO to discuss requirements to possess and/or transport nuclear material pursuant to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation (Safeguards) Act 1987.

All information provided is treated as commercial-in-confidence.

For additional information on export permissions, please contact the Uranium Section via email at uranium@industry.gov.au.

Uranium Section, DIIS
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