



U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Red Flags – Indications of Potential Illegal Exports

U.S. ICE solicits the assistance of private industry to provide information relating to suspicious acquisitions of high technology and munitions items, or services relating to these items. The following are possible indicators of illegal exports or diversions :

- The customer is willing to pay cash for a high value order rather than use a standard method of payment, which usually involves a letter of credit.
- The customer is willing to pay well in excess of market value for the commodities.
- The purchaser is reluctant to provide information on the end-use or end-user, of the product.
- The end-use information provided is incompatible with the customary purpose for which the product is designed.
- The final consignee is a trading company, freight forwarder, export company, or other entity with no apparent connection to the purchaser.
- The customer appears unfamiliar with the product, its application, support equipment, or performance.
- The packaging requirements are inconsistent with the shipping mode or destination.
- The customer orders products or options that do not correspond with their line of business.
- The customer has little or no business background.
- Firms or individuals from foreign countries other than the country of the stated end-user place the order.
- The order is being shipped via circuitous or economically illogical routing.
- The customer declines the normal service, training, or installation contracts.
- The product is inappropriately or unprofessionally packaged (e.g. odd sized/re-taped boxes, hand lettering in lieu of printing, altered labels, or labels that cover old ones).
- The size or weight of the package does not fit the product described.
- "Fragile" or other special markings on the package are inconsistent with the commodity described.

If "Red Flags" exist, the exporter has an affirmative duty to inquire further prior to any export.