

Quick Guide: What BMC Researchers Need to Know About Export Controls

What Are Export Controls?

U.S. laws that regulate the transfer of certain materials, technologies, software, or data to foreign countries or foreign nationals—whether physically, digitally, or verbally.

Why Should You Care?

Your research at BMC might be subject to export controls if it involves:

- ✓ Advanced medical imaging or diagnostic equipment
- ✓ Computers, smart phones or other personal devices
- ✓ Pathogens, toxins, or select agents
- ✓ Encrypted software or sensitive data
- ✓ International collaborations or lab members from outside the U.S.

Common Scenarios in a Lab Setting that May Have Export Implications

- Emailing controlled data to an overseas partner
- Sharing lab access with a foreign national
- Sending or traveling with equipment or samples abroad
- Presenting sensitive research at international conferences
- Signing agreements that restrict publication or restrict access to research results to US citizens or lawful permanent residents only

What You Should Do

Ask Early

- Involve BMC's Sponsored Program Administration and Research Compliance Office during the research proposal preparation stage or before international collaborations begin.

Limit Access

- Don't share controlled items or data without checking first.

Label & Track

- Properly document materials, equipment, and software in your lab.

When in Doubt:

- Contact BMC's Research Compliance Office at: DG-Research_Compliance@bmc.org or 617-638-7954

Remember:

Even well-meaning mistakes can lead to serious consequences:

- ◆ Fines, loss of funding, and criminal penalties

Knowing and following the rules helps protect both researchers and BMC.

💡 Tip for Principal Investigators: Include export control checks during project planning and onboarding.

For more information about export controls process, please see BMC's policy entitled [Export Controls](#) and [Boston University Export Control Manual](#).