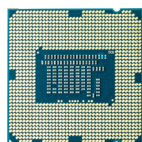


What is a dual-use?

Your product looks harmless, but could it end up in a missile? Read on.

A **dual-use item** is a product, software or technology designed for **civilian use** - but which can **also** be used for military, weapons-of-mass-destruction or surveillance purposes. Selling, shipping, e-mailing or **even sharing know-how** across borders may require an **export licence**.

Items that are often dual-use



Electronics & chips

Sensors, radios, microprocessors



Drones & UAVs

Including spare parts & software



Chemicals

Precursors, toxins, biological agents



Software & encryption

Cyber tools, cryptography, AI



Machine tools

High-precision lathes, CNC, 3D printers



Optics & lasers

Night-vision, thermal imaging, rangefinders



Materials & aerospace

Carbon fibre, titanium, composites, isotopes

Red flags: 5 questions to ask

- **WHO is the end-user?** Military, police, intelligence, nuclear or research entity?
- **WHAT will it be used for?** Vague answers ("general industrial use") are a warning sign.
- **WHERE is it going?** High-risk destinations or known transshipment hubs (UAE, Türkiye, Central Asia).
- **HOW is the deal structured?** Unusual routing, cash, freight forwarder as buyer, no after-sales support requested.
- **WHY the urgency or secrecy?** Pressure to skip paperwork = stop and escalate.

Before you ship: 4 quick steps



Classify the goods

Is it on the EU dual-use list?



Screen buyer & end-user

Sanctions lists + ownership



Check destination & end-use

Where is it going, for what?



Apply for a license

Via CDIU, if required

Catch-all:
even if it's not on the list,
you may still
NEED A LICENCE.

No in-house compliance team? Don't guess - hold the shipment and contact:

1. The Dutch licensing authority
Douane / CDIU
+31 (0)88 151 21 22
2. Your bank
3. Your lawyer or sector association

A short call now is far cheaper than an export-control investigation later.