

Headline: BIS asks for public input on surveillance tools and human rights

In a notice of inquiry, published July 17, 2020, the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) seeks public comments on the list of items on the Export Administration Regulations' (EAR) Commerce Control List (CCL) that are controlled for crime control and detection (CC) reasons to promote human rights throughout the world.

The request for comments in this notice furthers the periodic review of items controlled for CC reasons and is intended to inform the agency's decisions in updating (including additions and removals) items controlled for CC reasons on the CCL, as well as the related licensing requirements for such items. BIS takes this action pursuant to the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (ECRA).

CC items of particular interest for new license requirements by BIS include facial recognition software and other biometric systems for surveillance, non-lethal visual disruption lasers, and long-range acoustic devices and their components, software, and technologies. BIS also seeks comments on the merits of removing or modifying the CC controls on several additional items currently on the CCL, and on potential controls for such items that are end-use/end-user based.