

# **Revision of the Defense Equipment and Technology Transfer System**

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Cabinet Secretariat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Defense

# 1. Significance of Revisions of the Defense Equipment and Technology Transfer System

- **The recent revision of the defense equipment and technology transfer system** allows, in principle, the overseas transfer of all defense equipment, including finished products. This revision **will ensure Japan's security, protect the lives and peaceful livelihoods of our citizens, and further contribute to the peace and stability of the region and the international community**, as outlined below.
- **As the security environment becomes increasingly severe, no nation can ensure its own peace and security on its own.** To protect the peace and security of one's country and its region, partner countries that support each other, including in defense equipment, are essential.
- **In fact, Japan's defense equipment is also supported by partner countries.** At the same time, partner countries such as Southeast Asia, Australia, and Europe are placing higher expectations on Japanese defense equipment. Meeting these needs through defense equipment and technology transfers will contribute to enhancing the defense capabilities of these partners, which in turn will help prevent conflicts and lead to ensuring Japan's national security.
- **Furthermore, if these partner countries possess the same equipment as Japan, it becomes possible to mutually provide parts and components, thereby strengthening mutual cooperation.** In addition, by possessing production and maintenance bases overseas through license production, and by ensuring domestic production capacity with an eye toward overseas transfers, we can better prepare for long-term warfare in the event of a contingency.



Destroyer



Air Defense missile



Shipboard composite communication antenna

## 2. Strict Examination and Appropriate Control

### Fundamental Approach

- Even after the revision of the system, **Japan will uphold its philosophy as a peace-loving nation that has endured for more than 80 years since the end of World War II.**
- **While complying with international export control frameworks** (such as the Wassenaar Arrangement and the Arms Trade Treaty), **Japan will implement even more rigorous examinations on a case-by-case basis and ensure appropriate control.** This approach is consistent with those of other major nations.

### Strict Examination and Appropriate Control of Arms under the Self-Defense Forces Act

- Transfer is **limited** to countries that have concluded international agreements mandating the use consistent with the UN Charter (\*). Furthermore, in principle, no transfers can be made to "countries where combat is deemed to be currently taking place as part of an armed conflict."  
(\* ) Countries that have concluded an "Agreement Concerning the Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology" (17 countries as of April 2026: U.S., U.K., Australia, India, Philippines, France, Germany, Malaysia, Italy, Indonesia, Viet Nam, Thailand, Sweden, Singapore, UAE, Mongolia, and Bangladesh).
- Deliberations will be held by the National Security Council (Ministerial level). **Swift notification to the Diet** will be made upon a decision to permit transfer by the NSC.
- **Expand the examination criteria** for decision (In addition to the impact on international peace and security, new criteria have been added, such as the security environment and the export control system of the recipient country/region).
- Reinforce the system for monitoring the status of control in the recipient country after transfer, including conducting on-site inspections as necessary. As before, the recipient country is prohibited from transferring equipment to a third country without Japan's prior consent.