

EXPORT CONTROL GUIDANCE DRONES

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) and Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), commonly referred to as “drones”, are increasingly popular tools in research. There are several export control considerations that custodians/users of drones should be aware of, as detailed below:

- DJI (Da-Jiang Innovations), a well-known drone manufacturer headquartered in China, is on the United States Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) Entity List. Depending on the scenario, the shipment of items to DJI, including drones for return or repair, may be prohibited. Contact the Export Controls Office for a thorough review prior to making any shipment to DJI.
- While there is not a strict prohibition on the purchase or use of DJI drones for Texas A&M University, it is recommended to purchase alternative equipment, preferably from a United States manufacturer, whenever possible. (please note other Texas A&M System members or agencies may have different restrictions on the purchase of DJI drones)
- Drones, including but not limited to those from DJI, may automatically send flight telemetry data to the manufacturer. Sending this data to the manufacturer could be a prohibited export. The best way to prevent an unauthorized export is to **manually disable** this feature upon receipt of the drone, prior to first use.
- Some drones are more highly controlled than others, which can impact how, where, and by whom a drone may be used. Specifications such as range, payload, and speed, as well as special capabilities, determine the specific export control classification. Please contact the Export Controls Office for questions regarding export controls for equipment, especially before an anticipated export.
- Certain drone modifications, accessories, or attachments, such as cameras or lasers, may have export controls above the control level of the drone itself. Please contact the Export Controls Office for questions regarding export controls for equipment, especially before an anticipated export.
- Department of Defense (DoD) has restrictions on the procurement of drones and related equipment and services from China. Any researchers with DoD funding who have concerns over the procurement or use of drones should contact the Export Controls Office.
- In addition to export controls, drone users must comply with other regulations and procedures. Contact [Texas A&M Environmental Health and Safety](#) for all drone compliance questions not specifically related to export controls.

[Texas A&M University Export Controls Office](#)

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