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Global Trade Management
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Regulatory Policy Division
Bureau of Industry and Security, Room 2099B
U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington, DC 20230

SUBJECT: RIN 0694–XC025

To whom it may concern,

Northrop Grumman Corporation wishes to thank the Department for the opportunity to submit comments regarding reforms of the U.S. export control system. In response, we provide the following:

1. Multiple USML category entries. ***(For Information Purposes only)*** We recommended that the Department of State (DoS) undertake a comprehensive review of all categories/entries in the USML in order to reconcile where multiple USML category entries describe or control the same or similar commodities. Since the classification of most "600 series" controlled parts, components, accessories, attachments, etc. is dependent upon the classification of the USML controlled end item, if this recommended review occurs, resultant changes will impact classifications on the CCL as well. Duplicate entries cited as examples to the DoS included:

- **Fire control systems** controlled in USML VII(g)(12), VIII(h)(16), the catch-all XX(c), and XII(a).
- **Active protection systems**, which dependent upon platform and configuration, may be controlled in USML VI(f)(7), VII(g)(2), XI(a)(3)(xiv), XI(a)(4), IV(c).
- **Underwater mine detection systems** controlled in IV(c), VI(f)(8) if deployed by aircraft, XI(a)(1), and XII(b).
- **Cameras** controlled in XIII(a) and Cat XII(c).
- **Radar Target Generators** controlled in IX(a)(9) and XI(a)(3)(xxviii) and simulators controlled in IX(b)(1) as well as XI(a)3(xxviii).

2. 3A611 ASICs, PCBs, & multichip modules. (Note: These entries control ASICs, PCBs and multichip modules across all CCL categories.) We recommend CCL 3A611.(f-h) & 3A611.y(14-16) entries to be reserved and these items only be controlled if the function they perform is enumerated on the CCL or described in a ".y" paragraph, otherwise they are subject to the catch and release criteria as part of the ".x" catch-all paragraph. For example, a PCB which is a part of an 8A609.y.1 military ship's public address system would likewise be controlled under 8A609.y.1 verses 3A611.y.15. A PCB which is a part of an 8A620.b semi-submersible cargo transport would remain 8A620.b and not take on higher reasons for control under 3A611.g simply because it is a PCB.

3. Cables, cable assemblies, and connectors. We recommend all "specially designed" cables, connectors, and cable assemblies for data and power be controlled under 3A611.y.1 or

another ".y" entry. Cables, cable assemblies, and connectors for ground vehicles already have ".y" controls in 0A606.y.6. We recommend the same level of control for airborne, surface & subsurface vessels, as well as fixed sites. All "specially designed" electrical connectors, regardless of platform, are also already controlled under 3A611.y. These "specially designed" 3A611.y connectors are also usually on "modified for fit purposes" to connect two ends of wire or fiber with a military interface. Currently, many "specially designed" cables and cable assemblies are in a ".x" category depending on the platform, or in some cases dependent upon the type of data passing through the cable. The technology associated with transmitting data and transferring power across wire or fiber optics however is very common, with the most capable cables, cable assemblies and connectors being commercial, not military, and EAR 99 controlled. Cable and cable assemblies are also far less technical and capable than many other items which have been given ".y" controls.

4. Consistent syntax and controls for similar/same items on various platforms. The following comment was previously submitted under the Request for Comments Regarding Controls on Military Aircraft and Military Gas Turbine Engines on the Commerce Control List (RIN 0694-XC023); but also applies for the categories subject to this review.

In general, recommend a consistent use of syntax and terms throughout the entire "600 series" for all categories to increase clarity and understanding by industry. For example, compare/contrast how the terms "hydraulic" and "for" are used/not used in the following entries:

- 9A610.y.4 Check valves for hydraulic and pneumatic systems;
- 9A610.y.8 Filters and filter assemblies for hydraulic, oil and fuel systems; and
- 9A610.y.10 Hydraulic and fuel hoses, straight and unbent lines, fittings, couplings, and brackets.

The availability and level of technology for "check values" does not change if made for water, oil, gas, or hydraulic fluid. The term "hydraulic" as used in "y.4" should represent all types of liquids as is the traditional definition. However, "y.8" and "y.10" use the term "hydraulic" in succession with other liquids "fuel" and/or "oil" which implies the term "hydraulic" in all entries is restricted to just hydraulic fluid, thus making check valves for oil, gas, and water "9A610.x" controlled. The use of the word "for" in the first two entries "y.4" and "y.8" and the lack of the same syntax in "y.10" implies the terms "hydraulic and fuel" only describe the "hoses" and is not "for" describing the "straight and unbent lines, fittings, couplings, and brackets" indicating any type of the latter items are "y.10" controlled.

The same issues exist and the intent of the USG is even less clear when comparing the syntax of the same terms used in other categories as follows:

- 0A606.y.8 Hydraulic, fuel, oil, and air filters, other than those controlled by ECCN 1A004;
- 0A606.y.10 Hydraulic system hoses, fittings, couplings, adapters, and valves;
- 0A606.y.13 Pneumatic hoses, fittings, adapters, couplings, and valves;
- 8A609.y.2 Filters and filter assemblies, hoses, lines, fittings, couplings, and brackets for pneumatic, hydraulic, oil and fuel systems;
- 8A609.y.7 Potable water tanks, filters, valves, hoses, lines, fittings, couplings, and brackets;
- 9A619.y.2 Oil lines and tubes;
- 9A619.y.3. Fuel lines and hoses;
- 9A619.y.4. Fuel and oil filters;

The level of technology for these articles is the same irrespective of platform, but controls are inconsistently applied across categories. We therefor recommend “hydraulic” be defined as all types of liquids and “.y” controls regardless of end-item for all types of valves hoses, lines, fittings, couplings, brackets filters and filter assemblies for pneumatic and hydraulic systems.

Should clarification or subsequent technical discussions be necessary, please contact either Steve Headley at james.headley@ngc.com, (703 280-4806), or myself at thomas.p.donovan@ngc.com (703-280-4045).

Sincerely,

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