

### **1) Can an overseas company register for SPIRE?**

As I said at the time, technically this is possible (you can after all register to use SPIRE anywhere in the world). However, where an overseas company attempts to register, we would expect to see a UK presence. If, for example, an overseas company is registered at Companies House, UK branches would be shown with a "BR" reference.

### **2) The contact details link doesn't work**

I copy the link here (hopefully it will work), but I will pursue this:  
<http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/europeandtrade/strategic-export-control/contacts/page46235.html>

### **3) Can we (the exporters) see how much has been decremented from a licence, as we used to be able to see this when the licence was returned to us by Customs?**

We have discussed this with the SPIRE developers and are hoping to make this available soon.

### **4) I always seem to have to validate a licence when our applications are dealt with by someone who hadn't dealt with them before**

This is not the case. An exporter is sent a valid licence by SPIRE the same way every time a notification is issued. The issue with licences appearing unverified is because the person viewing that licence has not trusted the digital signature that ECO use. This does not affect the licence's validity or authenticity. Some confusion may have arisen here around July time this year, when the digital certificate expired, and we had to get a new one. The current one lasts until 2011.

### **5) Some browsers seem to impose a text limitation in certain SPIRE fields**

Some data entry fields on SPIRE have text length limits on them, E.g. Goods Description (1000 chars), Nature of Business (200 chars) and this should be browser independent, i.e. it should not matter which browser you are using, IE or Firefox. More information is needed for us to take this up with the SPIRE developers.

### **6) You said that we will be able to share templates and make templates from previous applications. When will this happen?**

I understand that this is planned for early in the New Year.

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