FYI

On Mar 19, 2014, at 10:31 AM, "Mowery, Wayne" <wmm12@rtto.psu.edu> wrote:

Here are a couple items (ok, a lot of items) to share:

Foreign Visitors -

* Current PSU Policies do not require screening and review of all foreign visitors. However, foreign visitors can and do present significant export and liability risks for the institution.

* As UECO, it is my preference to have all foreign visitors at least screened against the relevant denied parties listings maintained by the federal government. It is important to know that a foreign visitor who has obtained a visa has not necessarily been screened against these denied parties listings as part of the Visa process. The government has specifically informed Universities that we cannot rely on the Visa process for denied party screening.

* In most cases, a screening can be completed within a few hours (or less if I am in the office). Even the most difficult screenings (maybe 1 in 1000) typically take less than 5 days. If you send me names a few days to a week in advance, we will likely have plenty of time to complete the necessary screenings.

* Federal law prohibits interaction of any type with certain denied parties. It is always best practice to do a screening to prevent an inadvertent violation of the U.S. denied parties/embargo restrictions.

Foreign Travel -

* Current PSU Policies do not require screening and review of all foreign travel. However, foreign travel can and does present significant export and liability risks for the institution.

* All foreign travel should be reviewed due to the potential for inadvertent exports of controlled technology. Such exports can include items that one may not seem all that important to the travels (GPS receivers, software with encryption technology).

* All foreign travel should be reviewed in order to provide our faculty/staff with appropriate information about travel abroad. In addition, foreign travel review enables us to provide faculty/staff and departments/colleges/units with appropriate information on other areas within the University that have restrictions or pre-travel requirements for foreign travel (such as Risk Management & Global Programs).

* If research activities are occurring abroad, the University loses the Fundamental Research Exclusion for the results obtained while abroad. This can impact the sharing of information/data developed abroad with foreign students/staff/faculty upon return to campus. When research is being performed abroad (regardless of funding mechanisms), we need to appropriately review the proposed research in order to mitigate any downstream consequences for export compliance purposes.
In reviewing foreign travel, we can often collect names and information of known contacts while abroad, which enables screening against the denied parties listings. Just because we meet with someone outside the U.S. does not mean that the U.S. export laws governing restrictions on interactions with denied parties do not apply. THEY DO!

Most international travel reviews can be completed within a few hours/days. Most reviews require nothing more than providing the destination/itinerary, information on persons/companies that the faculty/staff will be meeting with, and a brief description of the intended purpose of the trip (such as, attending or presenting at a conference/open meeting; collaborative research efforts; presentations at Universities; meetings with current or potential sponsors).

Review Process -

If the proposed foreign visitor/travel is part of a sponsored research project, the review should be conducted through the Export Committee Team in OSP. Many times, the foreign visitor/foreign travel portion of the project is reviewed at award as part of OSP processing of the award agreement. If, however, no review was completed as part of the award process, or if situations/plans change during the course of a sponsored project (including changes in foreign destinations or the addition of foreign visitors not identified at time of award), then a follow up review may be necessary and appropriate. In such cases, please contact Brenda Brooks in OSP for appropriate guidance.

In all other cases, or if you are unsure whether a particular foreign transaction (visitor/travel) is part of a sponsored research project, please feel free to contact me via email directly or at export@psu.edu. If I think it should be handled by OSP, I will forward to them for handling. Otherwise, I will have the export review performed in my office (which for now consists of me).

Conclusion -

No current PSU Policies require pre-review of foreign visitors or foreign travel. This may change as I start to setup my new position as University Export Compliance Officer. I also hope to have an electronic submission process in place for these types of reviews at some point in time. It will, however, take some time to get from Point A to Point B, so I appreciate your help and understanding.

Any review requests for foreign visitors/foreign travel are greatly welcomed. It is my goal and intention to complete all such reviews in a timely manner. Also, by sending these my way, you are enabling me to develop some metrics on the number and complexity of these reviews. This will help me to justify assigning/developing additional assets to streamline and coordinate these processes.

This is not something that PSU is alone in facing. Many other higher education entities are or have instituted similar review requirements, many of which are much more robust than those proposed here.

As always, if anyone has any questions on export controls at PSU, please feel free to contact me. I am also quite happy to do targeted in-person training at any campus/college/department/unit. I can tailor the training to your specific needs, including the time available and the anticipated attendees (faculty, staff, combination of both, etc.). In addition, basic online training/education on export compliance is available through our Citi Training Program Subscription. This training is available to any person with a psu.edu email address. Please visit the training sub-page at my website (linked below) for more information on available online training opportunities.

Sincerely,
Wayne