

## Joint Certification Program (JCP) Program Overview

In 1984, the UnderSecretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics (USD (AT&L) released [DoD Directive 5230.25](#), establishing policy and assigning responsibilities for the dissemination and withholding of unclassified technical data disclosing critical technology with a military or space application. The withholding of such data, unless approved, authorized or licensed in accordance with export control laws, is necessary and in the national interest. The procedures found in this Directive formed the basis of the Joint Certification Program (JCP).

Initially, the aim of this Program was to certify United States (U.S.) Contractors, primarily for eligibility to bid or receive a contract involving access to unclassified Militarily Critical Technical Data (MCTD) under the Department of Defense's (DOD) control, upon the demonstration by the entity of a legitimate business purpose. With time, the Program has evolved to include a number of instances where JCP certification is required, but remains solely focused on the sharing of unclassified technical data.

As partners in the joint defense of North America, the governments of the U.S. and Canada share a unique, long-standing military and economic relationship, with regular consultations on the development of common industrial security procedures and technology controls. In that vein, both countries signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that codified and established the [U.S./Canada Joint Certification Program](#) (JCP). The Program allows reciprocity, effectively recognizing the very nature of the highly-integrated North American Industrial base. Under the agreement, contractors of each country are certified for access, on an equally favourable basis, to unclassified technical data disclosing critical technology controlled in the U.S. by DOD and in Canada by the Department of National Defence (DND). Participation in the JCP is therefore limited to contractors located in the U.S. and Canada.

Subservient to the laws of each nation, the U.S. [DoD Directive 5230.25](#) and Canada's DND [Technical Data Control Regulations](#) (TDCR), reinforce the notion that MCTD may be withheld from public disclosure, and that in return for data access, contractors must adhere to their responsibilities and prescribed limitations.

Certification establishes the eligibility of U.S./Canadian contractors to:

- receive unclassified technical data controlled by the DOD or DND;
- respond to defence-related contract opportunities whose specifications involve technical data that are releasable only to certified organizations;
- attend gatherings restricted to contractors that are certified by the Joint Certification Office (JCO), such as symposia, program briefings, meetings designed to publicize advance requirements of contracting agencies, pre-solicitation, pre-bid, pre-proposal, pre-award conferences, workshops and tours; and
- arrange unclassified visits directly with other certified U.S. or Canadian defense contractors or U.S. and Canadian military facilities.