

AI servers are restricted from import



AI Overview

Certain AI servers, particularly those equipped with advanced GPUs like Nvidia A100 and Blackwell-based chips, are restricted from export to countries such as China due to U.S. national security concerns.

U.S. Export Controls on AI Hardware

The United States has implemented strict export controls on high-performance AI chips and servers to prevent their use in military or malign applications. These controls, initially introduced under the Biden administration in 2025 and later modified under the Trump administration, restrict the export of GPUs and AI servers capable of performing extremely large-scale computations, including closed-weight AI models trained with 10^{26} operations or more (under ECCNs 3A090 and 4A090). The rules also apply to foreign-produced AI models that use U.S.-origin technology, meaning even servers developed outside the U.S. may be subject to these restrictions.

Restricted Destinations

Countries are categorized based on export eligibility: U.S.-allied countries (e.g., Australia, Japan, Germany, UK) are eligible for broad license exceptions. Restricted or arms-embargoed countries (e.g., China, North Korea, Iran, Russia) face stringent licensing requirements with a presumption of denial. Other countries may have intermediate restrictions, depending on the specific technology and use case.

Recent Enforcement and Circumvention Cases

Despite these restrictions, there have been notable incidents of restricted AI servers being acquired by Chinese institutions: Four Chinese universities, including military-affiliated Beijing Aviation and Harbin Institute of Technology, procured Supermicro servers with restricted Nvidia A100 chips, circumventing U.S. export controls. This raised concerns over potential military applications and prompted investigations by U.S. authorities. A \$2.5 billion smuggling case involved AI servers routed through Southeast Asia to China, bypassing U.S. export controls. The operation used intermediaries and dummy shipments to obscure the true destination, highlighting enforcement challenges.

Co...

Article Content

Special system users and application users

Learn about the special system and application users created when the system is provisioned, including assigned security role, user name, and purpose.

Indian firms secretly funneled AMD, Nvidia AI GPUs to

These servers are based on Intel's 4th Generation Xeon Scalable CPUs and are equipped with AMD Instinct MI300X or Nvidia H100 processors for

Google Gemini

Meet Gemini, Google's AI assistant. Get help with writing, planning, brainstorming, and more. Experience the power of generative AI.

Navigating GPU Export Controls and AI Use Restrictions in Data

US GPU export controls now impact data center operators hosting AI servers. Learn compliance requirements, due diligence steps, and risk mitigation strategies.

New U.S. Export Controls on Advanced Computing

Under the existing advanced computing foreign direct product rule, a license is required to ship certain foreign-produced advanced computing items

Chinese AI Startup Founder “Mocks” Effectiveness Of

The co-founder of a Chinese startup has "mocked" the effectiveness of the US restrictions by showing off the "restricted" NVIDIA accelerators.

Restriction on import of computers, laptops, tablets and servers ...

Earlier, import of laptops, tablets, all-in-one personal computers, ultra-small form factor computers and servers falling under HSN 8741 was put under "Restricted" category w.e.f. 3 August

Underground China repair shops thrive servicing illicit Nvidia GPUs ...

As such, Reuters reports that there is a booming underground industry focused on servicing high-end Nvidia AI GPUs that are officially restricted from export to the country.

US Further Restricts Nvidia AI Exports, Caps GPU

US Further Restricts Nvidia AI Exports, Caps GPU Purchases for Select Nations The Biden administration bars some countries from getting

Importing AI Servers Is a Compliance Problem, Not a Hardware Problem

This post gives a short overview for data centre operators, AI infrastructure companies, and systems integrators. The full guide, with a ten-country compliance table and a single-IOR versus

Biden admin's cap on GPU exports may hit India's AI

The outgoing US administration's proposed rule to curb the import of graphics processing units (GPUs) by certain countries may hit India's ambitions.

Taiwan Eyes Curbs on AI Chip Sales to China to Align With US

Taiwan Eyes Curbs on AI Chip Sales to China to Align With US Taipei officials are considering imposing much stronger AI chip controls that would restrict sales to all customers in China.

Chinese Universities Acquire Restricted AI Servers Despite U.S.

Chinese universities, including military-linked institutions, have obtained advanced AI servers with restricted chips, raising concerns over U.S. export control enforcement.

Super Micro \$2.5B Chip Smuggling Case [Updated April

SMCI co-founder faces charges for \$2.5B Nvidia chip diversion to China. 4 universities with PLA ties bought restricted servers. Full April 2026 case

Worried about China, US takes aim at Malaysia,

US President Donald Trump's administration plans to restrict shipments of artificial intelligence (AI) chips from the likes of Nvidia to Malaysia and

Trump Lifted the AI Chip Ban on China, Clearing Nvidia

Just three months after halting AI chip exports to China in April 2025, the Trump administration quietly reversed its policy, assuring Nvidia that it can

Massive 366% chip shipment surge to Malaysia amid

However, Malaysian companies are not only importing AI servers. They also accelerated purchases of components from Taiwan, which may

China Reveals \$92 Mn AI Servers Using Restricted Nvidia Chips

A Chinese artificial intelligence company has revealed that it operates advanced AI servers worth nearly \$92 million powered by chips from Nvidia, drawing renewed attention to the

China blocks Nvidia H200 AI chips that US government cleared for

China blocks Nvidia H200 AI chips that US government cleared for export – report Parts suppliers "put production on hold" amid mounting confusion as China restricts purchase of the chips

Best Practices for API Key Safety

IP allowlisting allows you to restrict which IP addresses can access your OpenAI API. When enabled, only requests from configured IP addresses or ranges are

Chinese Military-Linked Universities Acquire Restricted AI Servers ...

Four Chinese universities, including military-affiliated Beijing Aviation and Harbin Institute of Technology, procured Supermicro servers equipped with restricted NVIDIA A100 AI chips,

Get Restricted Import License for

In this blog, we will explain the new process to import Laptops, Tablets, Personal Computers, Servers etc. into India. It will give you an idea

How to ship AI servers internationally

How to ship AI servers internationally without customs delays. 2026 guide covering IOR, export licenses, HS codes, DDP, and country certifications.

AI GPU Import Compliance 2026: BIS Tiers, India BIS

AI GPU import compliance 2026: BIS tier country classification, India BIS holds costing millions, \$252M penalties, and the enforcement shift every

How Nvidia chips were smuggled to China via Supermicro

US indicts three tied to Supermicro in \$2.5 billion export scheme. AI servers allegedly routed via Taiwan and Southeast Asia to China. Nvidia-linked

AI and semiconductors: China hits out at latest US effort

The Chinese government has slammed America's introduction of fresh export controls on US-made semiconductors that Washington fears Beijing could

China's customs agents told Nvidia's H200 chips are not

Chinese government officials also summoned domestic technology companies to meetings where they were explicitly instructed not to purchase the

US expands curbs on China's AI memory and chip

Impact on AI chip development The latest restrictions target AI chip manufacturing, reflecting concerns over the potential military applications of the

US plans to tighten AI chip export rules for Malaysia,

The US says China imports Nvidia's AI chips via Southeast Asian countries. Image: X Screengrab The United States plans to tighten its export

Nvidia's banned AI servers are selling for \$1.1 million on China's ...

The US has restricted the export of Nvidia's most powerful AI chips to China since 2022 over fears that they could be used for military purposes.

Contact Us

For more information, pricing, or custom solutions, please contact us:

Website: <https://www.sky-connect.co.za>

Email: info@sky-connect.co.za

Phone: +44 20 7946 0958

Address: 1 Cornhill, London EC3V 3ND, United Kingdom

This document is for informational purposes only. Specifications subject to change without notice.

