Part 1

Mohammed, a project manager and LCM assessor, is based in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Mohammed is on a Skype call with his colleague Dave.

Mohammed shares a story with Dave about a time in the recent past when he offered to help a friend with some of his work.

Before the lockdown restrictions were brought in, Mohammed used to travel to the Australian office a few times a year, where he assessed a large complex defence project.

Whenever he visited Australia, he always sat with Julian and they became friends over time.

I’m ok, but others are struggling. Arabella really misses being in the office and even though we work on different projects for different customers, she misses talking through ideas together. I’d like to do something to help her – maybe I could take on some of her work?

I understand, it’s important to show you care. Just be careful when sharing work – sometimes even when we have good intentions we can get it wrong, I know from personal experience!

Part 2

Julian was working on an important part of the project with a US supplier who provided large quantities of technical data to BAE Systems Australia. He was responsible for keeping the technical requirements report up to date which was compiled from various sources including data from the US supplier.

Read this scenario and think about the questions, and about what you would do if this happened in your team, then discuss the scenario with your colleagues.
During one of Mohammed’s visits, Julian reached out to him for support, as he needed to take leave for a couple of days to attend a close family member’s funeral.

Hi, Julian, sorry to hear about your uncle.

Thanks, Mohammed, it’s really sad. And on top of it, I’m worried about getting the report done as I need to travel back to my home town for the funeral – I was wondering if you could do next week’s report for me?

Of course, you have enough to worry about and you need to be with your family now. Leave it with me.

Thanks, Mohammed, I’ll forward the reports to you and project documents so you can get up to speed with the project, I’ll also give you access to the shared folder where the project documentation is stored.

Scenario questions and summary

Julian left work at lunchtime to drive back to his hometown ahead of the funeral.

Later that day Mohammed received a call from his manager in Saudi, something urgent had come up and he asked Mohammed to cut short his Australia visit and return to Saudi as soon as possible.

Mohammed managed to change his return ticket and booked a seat on a flight for the next morning.

He remembered he had to complete the report for Julian so decided to print out the project documents and technical reports to take with him, so he could work on the report during his journey home and when he returned to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
Questions

• What do you think about Mohammed’s story? Are there any alarm bells within it that concern you?
• What do you think about Julian and Mohammed’s choices and behaviours?
• Was Julian within his rights to ask Mohammed to help him out?
• Did Mohammed respond in the right way?
• What is the relevance of the travel in this scenario?
• What would you do in Mohammed or Julian’s shoes?
• How can Dave help Arabella?

Ethical red flags

When people make poor choices, they usually create reasons to tell themselves, “It’s OK, I can go ahead”. We call these justifications ‘ethical red flags’. In this scenario, what might Mohammed have told himself?

Common ethical red flags include:

“It’s for the good of the company.”
“It was the only way to get it done on time.”
“I didn’t know it wasn’t allowed.”
“The ends justify the means.”

When you hear these phrases being used, usually someone is thinking about doing the wrong thing, or has already done it. Do you hear any ethical red flags in the workplace or elsewhere? Would you feel confident to speak up and alert someone if you did?

Key messages

• Julian should check to see if Mohammed is authorised to receive the export controlled information.
• A transfer of US controlled information to Mohammed which takes place in Australia is considered an export to Mohammed’s country of nationality, as well as being an export if it is transferred to another country.
• Exports within the same country based on nationality are an important aspect of US export control which differ from most other export control regulations we deal with as a Company.
• It’s important to understand what information is export controlled, the rules for accessing, sending and receiving such information and who is authorised to receive it - always follow the Company’s Export Control Procedures and if in doubt, ask for advice from your local Export Control Team.
• Even when working in an office, or virtual, environment with colleagues you should consider Security requirements that may limit who and on what basis you can share information.

Further reading

Code of Conduct
2.12 Sharing information
3.8 Trade restrictions and export controls

Policies and Guidelines
Export Control intranet homepage – Export Control Policy and Procedures

This scenario’s key themes were around Export Control and Security.