**NLS considerations in Import/Export - Frequently Asked Questions (Doc ID 227332.1)**

So this means that there is a potential for 3 seperate conversions when moving data from between databases, as described in the following graph: 
db in character 
set 
s cur ce 
de st in at ion 
db in character 
set 
During the Import 
expo 
process 
for all data pre-oracle? and data- 
dictionary data in oracle? and up: 
exp session is in character 
set B as defined by NLS LANG. 
Therefore the dump file is in 
character set B. Character set 
converslcn may occur. 
Imp sesslcn 
mzve file over Cc 
another ma chine 
is in character 
set C as defined by NLS LANG. 
The dump file is still in 
character set B. Character set 
converslcn may occur. 
character set conversion 
may occur between character 
set C and the db's character 
set if they differ. 

To minimize the number of conversions you are advised to follow these rules:  
+ Set the NLS\_LANG during export to the same as the character set of the exported database -> this means no conversion takes place, all data is still stored in the export file as it was stored in the database.  
+ Set the NLS\_LANG during import to the same value as during the export -> this means that no conversion takes place in the import session.  
+ If the character set of the target database is different, then the data will be automatically converted when import inserts the data into the database, you do not have to "set" anything for this, it's automatic.  
  
Of course you do not have to follow these rules, but complying with these rules does minimize the risk of loosing data during export/import.