§ 515.542 Mail and telecommunications-related transactions.

(a) All transactions of common carriers incident to the receipt or transmission of mail between the United States and Cuba are authorized.

(b) All transactions, including but not limited to payments, incident to the provision of telecommunications services between the United States and Cuba, the provision of satellite radio or satellite television services to Cuba, or the entry into and performance under roaming service agreements with telecommunications services providers in Cuba, by a telecommunications services provider that is a person subject to U.S. jurisdiction are authorized. This paragraph does not authorize any transactions addressed in paragraphs (c), (d), (f) or (g) of this section, nor does it authorize the entry into or performance of a contract with or for the benefit of any particular individual in Cuba.

(c) All persons subject to U.S. jurisdiction are authorized to enter into, and make payments under, contracts with non-Cuban telecommunications services providers, or particular individuals in Cuba, for telecommunications services provided to particular individuals in Cuba, provided that such individuals in Cuba are not prohibited officials of the Government of Cuba, as defined in § 515.337 of this part, or prohibited members of the Cuban Communist Party, as defined in § 515.338 of this part. The authorization in this paragraph includes but is not limited to, payment for activation, installation, usage (monthly, pre-paid, intermittent, or other), roaming, maintenance, and termination fees.

(d)(1) General license for telecommunications facilities linking the United States and Cuba. Transactions incident to the establishment of facilities to provide telecommunications services linking the United States and Cuba, including but not limited to fiber-optic cable and satellite facilities, are authorized.

(2) Specific licenses for telecommunications facilities linking third countries and Cuba. Specific licenses may be issued on a case-by-case basis authorizing transactions incident to the establishment of facilities to provide telecommunications services linking third countries and Cuba, including but not limited to fiber-optic cable and satellite facilities, provided that such facilities are necessary to provide efficient and adequate telecommunications services between the United States and Cuba.

(e) Any entity subject to U.S. jurisdiction relying on paragraph (b), (c), (d)(1), or (d)(2) of this section shall notify OFAC in writing within 30 days after commencing or ceasing to offer such services, as applicable, and shall furnish by January 15 and July 15 of each year semiannual reports providing the total amount of all payments made to Cuba or a third country related to any of the services authorized by this section during the prior six months. These notifications and reports must be captioned “Section 515.542 Notification” or “Section 515.542 Report” and faxed to 202/622-6931 or mailed to the Office of Foreign Assets Control, Attn: Policy Division, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Annex–4th Floor, Washington, DC 20220.

(f) For the purposes of this section, the term telecommunications services includes but is not limited to telephone, telegraph, and similar services and the transmission of satellite radio and satellite television broadcasts and news wire feeds.

(g) Nothing in this section authorizes the exportation or re-exportation of any items to Cuba. For the rules related to authorization of exports and re-exports to Cuba, see §§ 515.533 and 515.559 of this part.

(h) For an authorization of travel-related transactions that are directly incident to the commercial marketing, sales negotiation, accompanied delivery, or servicing in Cuba of telecommunications-related items that have been authorized for commercial export to Cuba by the U.S. Department of Commerce, see § 515.533(f) of this part. For an authorization of travel-related transactions that are directly incident to participation in professional meetings for the commercial marketing of, sales negotiation for, or performance under contracts for the provision of the telecommunications services, or the establishment of facilities.
§ 515.543 Proof of origin.

Specific licenses for importation of goods of Cuban origin are generally not issued unless the applicant submits satisfactory documentary proof of the location of the goods outside Cuba prior to July 8, 1963 and of the absence of any Cuban interest in the goods at all times on or since that date. Since the type of document which would constitute satisfactory proof varies depending upon the facts of the particular case, it is not possible to state in advance the type of documents required. However, it has been found that affidavits, statements, invoices, and other documents prepared by manufacturers, processors, sellers or shippers cannot be relied on and are therefore not by themselves accepted by the Office of Foreign Assets Control as satisfactory proof of origin. Independent corroborating documentary evidence, such as insurance documents, bills of lading, etc., may be accepted as satisfactory proof.

[39 FR 25317, July 10, 1974]

§ 515.544 Gifts of Cuban origin goods.

(a) Except as stated in paragraph (b) of this section, specific licenses are not issued for the importation of Cuban-origin goods sent as gifts to persons in the United States or acquired abroad as gifts by persons entering the United States. However, licenses are issued upon request for the return of such goods to the donors in countries other than Cuba.

(b) Specific licenses are issued for the importation directly from Cuba:

(1) Of goods which are claimed by the importer to have been sent as a bona fide gift or

(2) Of goods which are imported by a person entering the U.S., which are claimed to have been acquired in Cuba as a bona fide gift, subject to the conditions that:

(i) The goods are of small value, and

(ii) There is no reason to believe that there is, or has been since July 8, 1963, any direct or indirect financial or commercial benefit to Cuba or nationals thereof from the importation.


§ 515.545 Transactions related to information and informational materials.

(a) Transactions relating to the dissemination of informational materials are authorized, including remittance of royalties paid for informational materials that are reproduced, translated, subtitled, or dubbed. This section does not authorize the remittance of royalties or other payments relating to works not yet in being, or for marketing and business consulting services, or artistic or other substantive alteration or enhancements to informational materials, as provided in §515.206(a)(3).

(b) Specific licenses may be issued on a case-by-case basis authorizing the travel-related transactions set forth in §515.560(c) for purposes related to the exportation, importation, or transmission of information or informational materials as defined in §515.332.

NOTE TO §515.545. With respect to transactions necessary and ordinarily incident to the publishing and marketing of manuscripts, books, journals and newspapers, see §515.577.


§ 515.546 Accounts of Cuban sole proprietorships.

Specific licenses are issued unblocking sole proprietorships established under the laws of Cuba if the proprietor has emigrated from Cuba and established residence in the United States or a country in the authorized trade territory.


§ 515.547 Research samples.

Specific licenses are issued for importation of Cuban-origin commodities for