

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**Office of Foreign Assets Control****31 CFR Part 540****Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) Agreement Assets Control Regulations**

AGENCY: Office of Foreign Assets Control, Treasury.

ACTION: Interim rule.

SUMMARY: The Office of Foreign Assets Control of the U.S. Department of the Treasury is issuing regulations to implement the President's declaration in Executive Order 13159 of June 21, 2000 of a national emergency and order blocking certain property and interests in property of the Government of the Russian Federation that are directly related to the implementation of the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation Concerning the Disposition of Highly Enriched Uranium Extracted from Nuclear Weapons, dated February 18, 1993, and related contracts and agreements.

DATES: *Effective date:* January 12, 2001.

Comments: Written comments must be received no later than February 12, 2001. Comments may be submitted either via regular mail to the attention of David W. Mills, Chief, Policy Planning and Program Management Division, rm. 2176 Main Treasury Annex, 1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20220 or via OFAC's website (<http://www.treas.gov/ofac>).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dennis P. Wood, Chief of Compliance Programs, tel.: 202/622-2490, Steve I. Pinter, Acting Chief of Licensing, tel.: 202/622-2480, or Barbara C. Hammerle, Acting Chief Counsel, tel.: 202/622-2410, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC 20220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Electronic Availability**

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Assets Control are available for downloading from the Office's Internet Home Page: <http://www.treas.gov/ofac>, or in fax form through the Office's 24-hour fax-on-demand service: call 202/622-0077 using a fax machine, fax modem, or (within the United States) a touch-tone telephone.

Background

On June 21, 2000, the President issued Executive Order 13159 (65 FR 39279, June 26, 2000), declaring a national emergency with respect to the risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation and invoking the authority of, *inter alia*, the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.* ("IEEPA"). Pursuant to the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation Concerning the Disposition of Highly Enriched Uranium Extracted from Nuclear Weapons, dated February 18, 1993, and related contracts and agreements (collectively, the "HEU Agreements"), weapons-grade uranium extracted from Russian nuclear weapons is converted to low enriched uranium for use in commercial reactors. The order blocks and protects from attachment, judgment, decree, lien, execution, garnishment, or other judicial process that property and interests in property of the Government of the Russian Federation that are directly related to the implementation of the HEU Agreements that are in the United States, that are or hereafter come within the United States, or that are or hereafter come within the possession or control of U.S. persons, including their overseas branches. The order authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretaries of State and Energy, to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the order. To implement Executive Order 13159 the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the U.S. Department of the Treasury is promulgating the HEU Agreement Assets Control Regulations (the "Regulations").

Section 540.201 of subpart B of the Regulations implements section 2 of Executive Order 13129 (the "Executive Order") by blocking that property and interests in property of the Government of the Russian Federation that are directly related to the implementation of the HEU Agreements that are in the United States, that hereafter come within the United States, or that are or hereafter come within the possession or

control of U.S. persons, including their overseas branches. Section 540.201 implements section 2 of the Executive Order by prohibiting U.S. persons from transferring, paying, exporting, withdrawing or otherwise dealing in property blocked pursuant to the Executive Order.

Section 540.202 also implements section 2 of the Executive Order by making null and void any transfer or attempted transfer of blocked property after the effective date of the Executive Order absent a license or other authorization issued pursuant to the Executive Order and this part.

Subpart C provides definitions of terms used in the Regulations. Subpart D sets forth interpretive guidance for the Regulations. For example, § 540.405 makes clear that any transaction that is ordinarily incident to a licensed transaction and necessary to give effect to the licensed transaction is also authorized, except in the case where such an ordinarily incident transaction involves any attachment, judgment, decree, lien, execution, garnishment, or other judicial process which has the effect of encumbering the property or interest in property of the Government of the Russian Federation directly related to the implementation of the HEU Agreements in any manner that is not explicitly authorized within the terms of the license.

Transactions otherwise prohibited under part 540 but found to be consistent with U.S. policy may be authorized by general licenses contained in subpart E or by a specific license issued pursuant to the procedures described in subpart D of part 501 of 31 CFR chapter V. The general licenses contained in subpart E include an authorization in § 540.504 for U.S. financial institutions to debit blocked accounts for normal service charges. Penalties for violations of the Regulations are described in subpart G of the Regulations.

Because the Regulations involve a foreign affairs function, the provisions of Executive Order 12866 and the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553) (the "APA") requiring notice of proposed rulemaking, opportunity for public participation, and delay in effective date, are inapplicable.

However, because of the importance of the issues raised by these regulations, this rule is issued in interim form and comments will be considered in the development of final regulations. Accordingly, the Department encourages interested persons who wish to comment to do so at the earliest possible time to permit the fullest consideration of their views.

The period for submission of comments will close February 12, 2001. The Department will consider all comments received before the close of the comment period in developing final regulations. Comments received after the end of the comment period will be considered if possible, but their consideration cannot be assured. The Department will not accept public comments accompanied by a request that a part or all of the material be treated confidentially because of its business proprietary nature or for any other reason. The Department will return such comments and materials when submitted by regular mail to the person submitting the comments and will not consider them in the development of final regulations. In the interest of accuracy and completeness, the Department requires comments in written form.

All public comments on these regulations will be a matter of public record. Copies of public record concerning these regulations will be made available, not sooner than March 13, 2001, and will be obtainable from OFAC's website (<http://www.treas.gov/ofac>). If that service is unavailable, written requests for copies may be sent to: Office of Foreign Assets Control, U.S. Department of the Treasury, 1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20220, Attn: Merete Evans.

Because no notice of proposed rulemaking is required for this rule, the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601-612) does not apply.

Paperwork Reduction Act

The collections of information related to the Regulations are contained in 31 CFR part 501 (the "Reporting and Procedures Regulations"). Pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507), those collections of information have been previously approved by the Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") under control number 1505-0164. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid control number.

List of Subjects in CFR Part 540

Administrative practice and procedure, Blocking of assets, Government of the Russian Federation, HEU Agreement, Nuclear materials, Penalties, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Uranium.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, 31 CFR chapter V is amended by adding part 540 to read as follows:

PART 540—HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM (HEU) AGREEMENT ASSETS CONTROL REGULATIONS

Subpart A—Relation of This Part to Other Laws and Regulations

Sec.

540.101 Relation of this part to other laws and regulations.

Subpart B—Prohibitions

540.201 Prohibited transactions involving blocked property.

540.202 Effect of transfers violating the provisions of this part.

540.203 Holding of funds in interest-bearing accounts; investment and reinvestment.

Subpart C—General Definitions

540.301 Blocked account; blocked property.

540.302 Effective date.

540.303 Entity.

540.304 Government of the Russian Federation.

540.305 HEU Agreements.

540.306 Highly Enriched Uranium.

540.307 Licenses; general and specific.

540.308 Low Enriched Uranium.

540.309 Natural uranium.

540.310 Person.

540.311 Property; property interest.

540.312 Transfer.

540.313 United States.

540.314 United States person; U.S. person.

540.315 Uranium-235 (U235).

540.316 Uranium enrichment.

540.317 Uranium feed; natural uranium feed.

540.318 Uranium Hexafluoride (UF6).

540.319 U.S. financial institution.

Subpart D—Interpretations

540.401 Reference to amended sections.

540.402 Effect of amendment.

540.403 Termination and acquisition of an interest in blocked property.

540.404 Setoffs prohibited.

540.405 Transactions incidental to a licensed transaction.

Subpart E—Licenses, Authorizations and Statements of Licensing Policy

540.501 Effect of license or authorization.

540.502 Exclusion from licenses.

540.503 Payments and transfers to blocked accounts in U.S. financial institutions.

540.504 Entries in certain accounts for normal service charges authorized.

Subpart F—Reports

540.601 Records and reports.

Subpart G—Penalties

540.701 Penalties.

540.702 Prepenalty notice.

540.703 Response to prepenalty notice; informal settlement.

540.704 Penalty imposition or withdrawal.

540.705 Administrative collection; referral to United States Department of Justice.

Subpart H—Procedures

540.801 Procedures.

540.802 Delegation by the Secretary of the Treasury.

Subpart I—Paperwork Reduction Act

540.901 Paperwork Reduction Act notice.

Authority: 3 U.S.C. 301; 31 U.S.C. 321(b); 50 U.S.C. 1601-1651, 1701-1706; Pub. L. 101-410, 104 Stat. 890 (28 U.S.C. 2461 note); E.O. 13159, 65 FR 39279 (June 26, 2000).

Subpart A—Relation of This Part to Other Laws and Regulations

§ 540.101 Relation of this part to other laws and regulations.

(a) This part is separate from, and independent of, the other parts of this chapter, with the exception of part 501 of this chapter, the recordkeeping and reporting requirements and license application and other procedures which apply to this part. Actions taken pursuant to part 501 of this chapter with respect to the prohibitions contained in this part are considered actions taken pursuant to this part. Differing foreign policy and national security circumstances may result in differing interpretations of similar language among the parts of this chapter. No license or authorization contained in or issued pursuant to those other parts authorizes any transaction prohibited by this part. No license or authorization contained in or issued pursuant to any other provision of law or regulation authorizes any transaction prohibited by this part.

(b) Nothing contained in these regulations shall relieve a person from any requirement to obtain a license or other authorization from any department or agency of the United States Government in compliance with applicable laws and regulations subject to the jurisdiction of that department or agency, and no license contained in or issued pursuant to this part relieves the involved parties from complying with any other applicable laws or regulations.

Subpart B—Prohibitions

§ 540.201 Prohibited transactions involving blocked property.

(a) Except as otherwise authorized by regulations, orders, directives, rulings, instructions, licenses, or otherwise, the property or property interests of the Government of the Russian Federation that are directly related to the implementation of the Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) Agreements, that are in the United States, that hereafter come within the United States, or that are or hereafter come within the possession or control of U.S. persons are blocked and may not be transferred, paid, exported, withdrawn or otherwise dealt in.

(b) Unless otherwise authorized by this part or by a specific license expressly referring to this part, any attachment, judgment, decree, lien,

execution, garnishment, or other judicial process is null and void with respect to any blocked property or interest in blocked property covered by this part.

§ 540.202 Effect of transfers violating the provisions of this part.

(a) Any transfer after the effective date (see § 540.302) that is in violation of any provision of this part or of any regulation, order, directive, ruling, instruction, or license issued pursuant to this part, and that involves any property or interest in property blocked pursuant to § 540.201(a) is null and void and shall not be the basis for the assertion or recognition of any interest in or right, remedy, power, or privilege with respect to such property or property interests.

(b) No transfer before the effective date shall be the basis for the assertion or recognition of any right, remedy, power, or privilege with respect to, or any interest in, any property or interest in property blocked pursuant to § 540.201, unless the person with whom such property is held or maintained, prior to that date, had written notice of the transfer or by any written evidence had recognized such transfer.

(c) Unless otherwise provided, an appropriate license or other authorization issued by or pursuant to the direction or authorization of the Director of the Office of Foreign Assets Control before, during, or after a transfer shall validate such transfer or render it enforceable to the same extent that it would be valid or enforceable but for the provisions of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, this part, and any regulation, order, directive, ruling, instruction, or license issued pursuant to this part.

(d) Transfers of property that otherwise would be null and void or unenforceable by virtue of the provisions of this section shall not be deemed to be null and void or unenforceable as to any person with whom such property was held or maintained (and as to such person only) in cases in which such person is able to establish to the satisfaction of the Director of the Office of Foreign Assets Control each of the following:

(1) Such transfer did not represent a willful violation of the provisions of this part by the person with whom such property was held or maintained;

(2) The person with whom such property was held or maintained did not have reasonable cause to know or suspect, in view of all the facts and circumstances known or available to such person, that such transfer required a license or authorization issued

pursuant to this part and was not so licensed or authorized, or if a license or authorization did purport to cover the transfer, that such license or authorization had been obtained by misrepresentation of a third party or withholding of material facts or was otherwise fraudulently obtained; and

(3) The person with whom such property was held or maintained filed with the Office of Foreign Assets Control a report setting forth in full the circumstances relating to such transfer promptly upon discovery that:

(i) Such transfer was in violation of the provisions of this part or any regulation, ruling, instruction, license or other direction, or authorization issued pursuant to this part;

(ii) Such transfer was not licensed or authorized by the Director of the Office of Foreign Assets Control; or

(iii) If a license did purport to cover the transfer, such license had been obtained by misrepresentation of a third party or withholding of material facts or was otherwise fraudulently obtained.

Note to paragraph (d) of § 540.202: The filing of a report in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (d)(3) of this section shall not be deemed evidence that the terms of paragraphs (d)(1) and (d)(2) of this section have been satisfied. [End Note]

§ 540.203 Holding of funds in interest-bearing accounts; investment and reinvestment.

(a) Except as provided in paragraphs (c) or (d) of this section, or as otherwise directed by the Office of Foreign Assets Control, any U.S. person holding funds, such as currency, bank deposits, or liquidated financial obligations, subject to § 540.201 shall hold or place such funds in a blocked interest-bearing account located in the United States.

(b)(1) For purposes of this section the term *blocked interest-bearing account* means a blocked account:

(i) In a federally-insured U.S. bank, thrift institution, or credit union, provided the funds are earning interest at rates which are commercially reasonable; or

(ii) With a broker or dealer registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, provided the funds are invested in a money market fund or U.S. Treasury Bills.

(2) For purposes of this section, a rate is commercially reasonable if it is the rate currently offered to other depositors on deposits or instruments of comparable size and maturity.

(3) Funds held or placed in a blocked account pursuant to this paragraph (b) may not be invested in instruments the maturity of which exceeds 180 days. If

interest is credited to a separate blocked account or sub-account, the name of the account party on each account must be the same.

(c) Blocked funds held in instruments the maturity of which exceeds 180 days at the time the funds become subject to § 540.201 may continue to be held until maturity in the original instrument, provided any interest, earnings, or other proceeds derived therefrom are paid into a blocked interest-bearing account in accordance with paragraph (b) or (d) or this section.

(d) Blocked funds held in accounts or instruments outside the United States at the time the funds become subject to § 540.201 may continue to be held in the same type of accounts or instruments, provided the funds earn interest at rates which are commercially reasonable.

(e) This section does not create an affirmative obligation for the holder of blocked tangible property, such as chattels or real estate, or of other blocked property, such as debt or equity securities, to sell or liquidate such property at the time the property becomes subject to § 540.201. However, the Office of Foreign Assets Control may issue licenses permitting or directing such sales in appropriate cases.

(f) Funds subject to this section may not be held, invested, or reinvested in a manner which provides immediate financial or economic benefit or access to the Government of the Russian Federation or its entities, nor may their holder cooperate in or facilitate the pledging or other attempted use as collateral of blocked funds or other assets.

Subpart C—General Definitions

§ 540.301 Blocked account; blocked property.

The terms *blocked account* and *blocked property* shall mean any account or property subject to the prohibition in § 540.201 and with respect to which payments, transfers, exportations, withdrawals, or other dealings may not be made or effected except pursuant to an authorization or license from the Office of Foreign Assets Control expressly authorizing such action.

§ 540.302 Effective date.

The term *effective date* refers to the effective date of the applicable prohibitions and directives contained in this part which is 12:01 a.m., Eastern Daylight Time, June 22, 2000.

§ 540.303 Entity.

The term *entity* means a partnership, association, trust, joint venture,

corporation, or other organization, group, or subgroup.

§ 540.304 Government of the Russian Federation.

(a) The term *Government of the Russian Federation* means the Government of the Russian Federation, any political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality thereof, and any person owned or controlled by, or acting for or on behalf of, the Government of the Russian Federation.

(b) Any person or entity to the extent such person or entity is or has been, or to the extent that there is reasonable cause to believe that such person or entity is, or has been, since the effective date, (see § 540.302) acting or purporting to act directly or indirectly on behalf of any of the foregoing.

§ 540.305 HEU Agreements.

The term *HEU Agreements* means the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation Concerning the Disposition of Highly Enriched Uranium Extracted from Nuclear Weapons, dated February 18, 1993; the Initial Implementing Contract, Contract Number DE-AC01-93NE50067, dated January 14, 1994; and all current and future amendments thereto; as well as the related current and future implementing agreements, memoranda of understanding, protocols, and contracts, including all current and future amendments thereto, to include without limitation the following:

(a) Memorandum of Agreement Between the United States, Acting By and Through the United States Department of State, and the United States Department of Energy and the United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC), for USEC to Serve as the United States Government's Executive Agent under the Agreement Between the United States and the Russian Federation Concerning the Disposition of Highly Enriched Uranium Extracted from Nuclear Weapons, dated April 18, 1997;

(b) Agreement Between the United States Department of Energy and the Ministry of the Russian Federation for Atomic Energy Concerning the Transfer of Source Material to the Russian Federation signed at Washington on March 24, 1999, with Implementing Agreement and Administrative Arrangement, dated March 24, 1999, and related letter agreements; and

(c) UF6 Feed Component Implementing Contract Among Cameco Europe S.A. and Compagnie General des Matieres Nucleaires and Nukem, Inc. and Nukem Nukclear GmbH and AO

Techsnabexport, Tenex Contract # 08843672/90100-02D, dated March 24, 1999.

§ 540.306 Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU).

The term *highly enriched uranium* or *HEU* means uranium enriched to twenty (20) percent or greater in the isotope U235.

§ 540.307 Licenses; general and specific.

(a) Except as otherwise specified, the term *license* means any license or authorization contained in or issued pursuant to this part.

(b) The term *general license* means any license or authorization the terms of which are set forth in subpart E of this part.

(c) The term *specific license* means any license or authorization not set forth in subpart E of this part but issued pursuant to this part.

Note to § 540.307. See § 501.801 of this chapter on licensing procedures. [End note]

§ 540.308 Low Enriched Uranium (LEU).

The term *low enriched uranium* or *LEU* means uranium enriched to less than twenty (20) percent in the isotope U235.

§ 540.309 Natural uranium.

The term *natural uranium* means uranium found in nature, with an average concentration of 0.711 percent by weight of the isotope U235.

§ 540.310 Person.

The term *person* means an individual or entity.

§ 540.311 Property; property interest.

The terms *property* and *property interest* include but are not limited to, money, checks, drafts, bullion, bank deposits, savings accounts, debts, indebtedness, obligations, notes, guarantees, debentures, stocks, bonds, coupons, any other financial instruments, bankers acceptances, mortgages, pledges, liens or other rights in the nature of security, warehouse receipts, bills of lading, trust receipts, bills of sale, any other evidences of title, ownership, or indebtedness, letters of credit and any documents relating to any rights or obligations thereunder, powers of attorney, goods, wares, merchandise, chattels, stocks on hand, ships, goods on ships, real estate mortgages, deeds of trust, vendors' sales agreements, land contracts, leaseholds, ground rents, real estate and any other interest therein, options, negotiable instruments, trade acceptances, royalties, book accounts, accounts payable, judgments, patents, trademarks, copyrights, insurance

policies, safe deposit boxes and their contents, annuities, pooling agreements, services of any nature whatsoever, contracts of whatever nature whatsoever, and any other property, real, personal, or mixed, tangible or intangible, or interests therein, present, future, or contingent.

§ 540.312 Transfer.

The term *transfer* means any actual or purported act or transaction, whether or not evidenced by writing, and whether or not done or performed within the United States, the purpose, intent, or effect of which is to create, surrender, release, convey, transfer, or alter, directly or indirectly, any right, remedy, power, privilege, or interest with respect to any property and, without limitation upon the foregoing, shall include the making, execution, or delivery of any assignment, power, conveyance, check, declaration, deed, deed of trust, power of attorney, power of appointment, bill of sale, mortgage, receipt, agreement, contract, certificate, gift, sale, affidavit, or statement; the making of any payment; the setting off of any obligation or credit; the appointment of any agent, trustee, or fiduciary; the creation or transfer of any lien; the issuance, docketing, filing, or levy of or under any judgment, decree, attachment, injunction, execution, or other judicial or administrative process or order, or the service of any garnishment; the acquisition of any interest of any nature whatsoever by reason of a judgment or decree of any foreign country; the fulfillment of any condition; the exercise of any power of appointment, power of attorney, or other power; or the acquisition, disposition, transportation, importation, exportation, or withdrawal of any security.

§ 540.313 United States.

The term *United States* means the United States, its territories and possessions, and all areas under the jurisdiction or authority thereof.

§ 540.314 United States person; U.S. person.

The term *United States person* or *U.S. person* means any United States citizen, permanent resident alien, juridical person organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States, including foreign branches, or any person in the United States.

§ 540.315 Uranium-235 (U235).

The term *uranium-235* or *U235* means the fissile isotope found in natural uranium.

§ 540.316 Uranium enrichment.

The term *uranium enrichment* means the process of increasing the concentration of the isotope U235 relative to that of the isotope U238.

§ 540.317 Uranium feed; natural uranium feed.

The term *uranium feed* or *natural uranium feed* means natural uranium in the form of UF₆ suitable for uranium enrichment.

§ 540.318 Uranium Hexafluoride (UF₆).

The term *uranium hexafluoride* or *UF₆* means a compound of uranium and fluorine.

§ 540.319 U.S. financial institution.

The term *U.S. financial institution* means any U.S. entity (including its foreign branches) that is engaged in the business of accepting deposits, making, granting, transferring, holding, or brokering loans or credits, or purchasing or selling foreign exchange, securities, commodity futures or options, or procuring purchasers and sellers thereof, as principal or agent; including but not limited to, depository institutions, banks, savings banks, trust companies, securities brokers and dealers, commodity futures and options brokers and dealers, forward contract and foreign exchange merchants, securities and commodities exchanges, clearing corporations, investment companies, employee benefit plans, and U.S. holding companies, U.S. affiliates, or U.S. subsidiaries of any of the foregoing. This term includes those branches, offices and agencies of foreign financial institutions that are located in the United States, but not such institutions' foreign branches, offices, or agencies.

Subpart D—Interpretations**§ 540.401 Reference to amended sections.**

Except as otherwise specified, reference to any section of this part or to any regulation, ruling, order, instruction, direction, or license issued pursuant to this part shall be deemed to refer to the same as currently amended.

§ 540.402 Effect of amendment.

Any amendment, modification, or revocation of any section of this part or of any order, regulation, ruling, instruction, or license issued by or under the direction of the Director of the Office of Foreign Assets Control shall not, unless otherwise specifically provided, affect any act done or omitted to be done, or any civil or criminal suit or proceeding commenced or pending prior to such amendment, modification, or revocation. All penalties, forfeitures,

and liabilities under any such order, regulation, ruling, instruction, or license continue and may be enforced as if such amendment, modification, or revocation had not been made.

§ 540.403 Termination and acquisition of an interest in blocked property.

(a) Whenever a transaction licensed or authorized by or pursuant to this part results in the transfer of property (including any property interest) away from the Government of the Russian Federation, such property shall no longer be deemed to be property in which the Government of the Russian Federation has or has had an interest unless there exists in the property another interest of the Government of the Russian Federation, the transfer of which has not been effected pursuant to license or other authorization.

(b) Unless otherwise specifically provided in a license or authorization issued pursuant to this part, if property (including any property interest) is transferred or attempted to be transferred to the Government of the Russian Federation, such property shall be deemed to be property in which there exists an interest of the Government of the Russian Federation.

§ 540.404 Setoffs prohibited.

A setoff against blocked property (including a blocked account), whether by a U.S. bank or other U.S. person, is a prohibited transfer under § 540.201 if effected after the effective date (see § 540.302).

§ 540.405 Transactions incidental to a licensed transaction.

Any transaction ordinarily incidental to a licensed transaction and necessary to give effect thereto is also authorized, except for any attachment, judgment, decree, lien, execution, garnishment, or other judicial process which has the effect of encumbering the property or interest in property of the Government of the Russian Federation directly related to the implementation of the HEU agreements, or any transaction involving a debit to a blocked account or transfer of blocked property not explicitly authorized within the terms of a license.

Subpart E—Licenses, Authorizations and Statements of Licensing Policy**§ 540.501 Effect of license or authorization.**

(a) No license or other authorization contained in this part, or otherwise issued by or under the direction of the Director of the Office of Foreign Assets Control, authorizes or validates any transaction effected prior to the issuance

of the license, unless specifically provided in such license or authorization.

(b) No regulation, ruling, instruction, or license authorizes any transaction prohibited under this part unless the regulation, ruling, instruction or license is issued by the Office of Foreign Assets Control and specifically refers to this part. No regulation, ruling, instruction, or license referring to this part shall be deemed to authorize any transaction prohibited by any provision of this chapter unless the regulation, ruling, instruction, or licenses specifically refers to such provision.

(c) Any regulation, ruling, instruction, or license authorizing any transaction otherwise prohibited under this part has the effect of removing a prohibition contained in this part from the transaction, but only to the extent specifically stated by its terms. Unless the regulation, ruling, instruction, or license otherwise specifies, such an authorization does not create any right, duty, obligation, claim, or interest in, or with respect to, any property which would not otherwise exist under ordinary principles of law.

§ 540.502 Exclusion from licenses.

The Director of the Office of Foreign Assets Control reserves the right to exclude any person, property, or transaction from the operation of any license or from the privileges conferred by any license. The Director of the Office of Foreign Assets Control also reserves the right to restrict the applicability of any license to particular persons, property, transactions, or classes thereof. Such actions are binding upon all persons receiving actual or constructive notice of the exclusions or restrictions.

§ 540.503 Payments and transfers to blocked accounts in U.S. financial institutions.

Any payment of funds or transfer of credit in which the Government of the Russian Federation has any interest that is directly related to the implementation of the HEU Agreements and that comes within the possession or control of a U.S. financial institution must be blocked in an account on the books of that financial institution. A transfer of funds or credit by a U.S. financial institution between blocked accounts in its branches or offices is authorized, provided that no transfer is made from an account within the United States to an account held outside the United States, and further provided that a transfer from a blocked account may only be made to another blocked account held in the same name.

Note to § 540.503. Please refer to § 501.603 of this chapter for mandatory reporting requirements regarding financial transfers. See also § 501.203 concerning the obligation to hold blocked funds in interest-bearing accounts. [End note]

§ 540.504 Entries in certain accounts for normal service charges authorized.

(a) A U.S. financial institution is authorized to debit any blocked account held by that financial institution in payment or reimbursement for normal service charges owed to it by the owner of the blocked account.

(b) As used in this section, the term *normal service charge* shall include charges in payment or reimbursement for interest due; cable, telegraph, internet, or telephone charges; postage costs; custody fees; small adjustment charges to correct bookkeeping errors; and, but not by way of limitation, minimum balance charges, notary and protest fees, and charges for reference books, photocopies, credit reports, transcripts of statements, registered mail, insurance, stationery and supplies, and other similar items.

Subpart F—Reports

§ 540.601 Records and reports.

For additional provisions relating to required records and reports, see part 501, subpart C, of this chapter.

Subpart G—Penalties

§ 540.701 Penalties.

(a) Attention is directed to section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (the “Act”) (50 U.S.C. 1705), which is applicable to violations of the provisions of any license, ruling, regulation, order, direction, or instruction issued by or pursuant to the direction or authorization of the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to this part or otherwise under the Act. Section 206 of the Act, as adjusted by the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-410, as amended, 28 U.S.C. 2461 note), provides that:

(1) A civil penalty not to exceed \$11,000 per violation may be imposed on any person who violates or attempts to violate any license, order, or regulation issued under the Act;

(2) Whoever willfully violates or willfully attempts to violate any license, order, or regulation issued under the Act, upon conviction, shall be fined not more than \$50,000, and if a natural person, may also be imprisoned for not more than 10 years; and any officer, director, or agent of any corporation who knowingly participates in such

violation may be punished by a like fine, imprisonment, or both.

(b) The criminal penalties provided in the Act are subject to increase pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 3571.

(c) Attention is also directed to 18 U.S.C. 1001, which provides that whoever, in any matter within the jurisdiction of the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of the Government of the United States, knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals, or covers up by any trick, scheme, or device, a material fact, or makes any materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing the same to contain any materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or entry shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

(d) Violations of this part may also be subject to relevant provisions of other applicable laws.

§ 540.702 Prepenalty notice.

(a) *When required.* If the Director of the Office of Foreign Assets Control has reasonable cause to believe that there has occurred a violation of any provision of this part or a violation of the provisions of any license, ruling, regulation, order, direction, or instruction issued by or pursuant to the direction or authorization of the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to this part or otherwise under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, and the Director determines that further proceedings are warranted, the Director shall notify the alleged violator of the agency’s intent to impose a monetary penalty by issuing a prepenalty notice. The prepenalty notice shall be in writing. The prepenalty notice may be issued whether or not another agency has taken any action with respect to the matter.

(b) *Contents of notice—(1) Facts of violation.* The prepenalty notice shall describe the violation, specify the laws and regulations allegedly violated, and state the amount of the proposed monetary penalty.

(2) *Right to respond.* The prepenalty notice also shall inform the respondent of respondent’s right to make a written presentation within the applicable 30 day period set forth in section 540.703 as to why a monetary penalty should not be imposed or why, if imposed, the monetary penalty should be in a lesser amount than proposed.

(c) *Informal settlement prior to issuance of prepenalty notice.* At any time prior to the issuance of a prepenalty notice, an alleged violator may request in writing that, for a period

not to exceed sixty (60) days, the agency withhold issuance of the prepenalty notice for the exclusive purpose of effecting settlement of the agency’s potential civil monetary penalty claims. In the event the Director grants the request, under terms and conditions within his discretion, the Office of Foreign Assets Control will agree to withhold issuance of the prepenalty notice for a period not to exceed 60 days and will enter into settlement negotiations of the potential civil monetary penalty claim.

§ 540.703 Response to prepenalty notice; informal settlement.

(a) *Deadline for response.* The respondent may submit a response to the prepenalty notice within the applicable 30 day period set forth in this paragraph. The Director may grant, at his discretion, an extension of time in which to submit a response to the prepenalty notice. The failure to submit a response within the applicable time period set forth in this paragraph shall be deemed to be a waiver of the right to respond.

(1) *Computation of time for response.* A response to the prepenalty notice must be postmarked or date-stamped by the U.S. Postal Service (or foreign postal service, if mailed abroad) or courier service provider (if transmitted to OFAC by courier) on or before the 30th day after the postmark date on the envelope in which the prepenalty notice was mailed. If the respondent refused delivery or otherwise avoided receipt of the prepenalty notice, a response must be postmarked or date-stamped on or before the 30th day after the date on the stamped postal receipt maintained at the Office of Foreign Assets Control. If the prepenalty notice was personally delivered to the respondent by a non-U.S. Postal Service agent authorized by the Director, a response must be postmarked or date-stamped on or before the 30th day after the date of delivery.

(2) *Extensions of time for response.* If a due date falls on a federal holiday or weekend, that due date is extended to include the following business day. Any other extensions of time will be granted, at the Director’s discretion, only upon the respondent’s specific request to the Office of Foreign Assets Control.

(b) *Form and method of response.* The response must be submitted in writing and may be handwritten or typed. The response need not be in any particular form. A copy of the written response may be sent by facsimile, but the original must also be sent to the Office of Foreign Assets Control Civil Penalties Division by mail or courier and must be

postmarked or date-stamped, in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section.

(c) *Contents of response.* A written response must contain information sufficient to indicate that it is in response to the prepenalty notice.

(1) A written response must include the respondent's full name, address, telephone number, and facsimile number, if available, or those of the representative of the respondent.

(2) A written response should either admit or deny each specific violation alleged in the prepenalty notice and also state if the respondent has no knowledge of a particular violation. If the written response fails to address any specific violation alleged in the prepenalty notice, that alleged violation shall be deemed to be admitted.

(3) A written response should include any information in defense, evidence in support of an asserted defense, or other factors that the respondent requests the Office of Foreign Assets Control to consider. Any defense or explanation previously made to the Office of Foreign Assets Control or any other agency must be repeated in the written response. Any defense not raised in the written response will be considered waived. The written response should also set forth the reasons why the respondent believes the penalty should not be imposed or why, if imposed, it should be in a lesser amount than proposed.

(d) *Default.* If the respondent elects not to submit a written response within the time limit set forth in paragraph (a) of this section, the Office of Foreign Assets Control will conclude that the respondent has decided not to respond to the prepenalty notice. The agency generally will then issue a written penalty notice imposing the penalty proposed in the prepenalty notice.

(e) *Informal settlement.* In addition to or as an alternative to a written response to a prepenalty notice, the respondent or respondent's representative may contact the Office of Foreign Assets Control as

advised in the prepenalty notice to propose the settlement of allegations contained in the prepenalty notice and related matters. However, the requirements set forth in paragraph (f) of this section as to oral communication by the representative must first be fulfilled. In the event of settlement at the prepenalty stage, the claim proposed in the prepenalty notice will be withdrawn, the respondent will not be required to take a written position on allegations contained in the prepenalty notice, and the Office of Foreign Assets Control will make no final determination as to whether a violation occurred. The amount accepted in settlement of allegations in a prepenalty notice may vary from the civil penalty that might finally be imposed in the event of a formal determination of violation. In the event no settlement is reached, the time limit specified in paragraph (a) of this section for written response to the prepenalty notice remains in effect unless additional time is granted by the Office of Foreign Assets Control.

(f) *Representation.* A representative of the respondent may act on behalf of the respondent, but any oral communication with the Office of Foreign Assets Control prior to a written submission regarding the specific allegations contained in the prepenalty notice must be preceded by a written letter of representation, unless the prepenalty notice was served upon the respondent in care of the representative.

§ 540.704 Penalty imposition or withdrawal.

(a) *No violation.* If, after considering any response to the prepenalty notice and any relevant facts, the Director of the Office of Foreign Assets Control determines that there was no violation by the respondent named in the prepenalty notice, the Director shall notify the respondent in writing of that determination and the cancellation of the proposed monetary penalty.

(b) *Violation.* (1) If, after considering any written response to the prepenalty notice, or default in the submission of a written response, and any relevant facts, the Director of the Office of Foreign Assets Control determines that there was a violation by the respondent named in the prepenalty notice, the Director is authorized to issue a written penalty notice to the respondent of the determination of violation and the imposition of the monetary penalty.

(2) The penalty notice shall inform the respondent that payment or arrangement for installment payment of the assessed penalty must be made within 30 days of the date of mailing of the penalty notice by the Office of Foreign Assets Control.

(3) The penalty notice shall inform the respondent of the requirement to furnish the respondent's taxpayer identification number pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 7701 and that such number will be used for purposes of collecting and reporting on any delinquent penalty amount.

(4) The issuance of the penalty notice finding a violation and imposing a monetary penalty shall constitute final agency action. The respondent has the right to seek judicial review of that final agency action in federal district court.

§ 540.705 Administrative collection; referral to United States Department of Justice.

In the event that the respondent does not pay the penalty imposed pursuant to this part or make payment arrangements acceptable to the Director of the Office of Foreign Assets Control within 30 days of the date of mailing of the penalty notice, the matter may be referred for administrative collection measures by the Department of the Treasury or to the United States Department of Justice for appropriate action to recover the penalty in a civil suit in federal district court.

Subpart H—Procedures**§ 540.801 Procedures.**

For license application procedures and procedures relating to amendments, modifications, or revocations of licenses; administrative decisions; rulemaking; and requests for documents pursuant to the Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts (5 U.S.C. 552 and 552a), see subpart D of part 501 of this chapter.

§ 540.802 Delegation by the Secretary of the Treasury.

Any action that the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to take pursuant to Executive Order 13159 of June 21,

2000 (65 FR 39279, June 26, 2000) and any further executive orders relating to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13159 may be taken by the Director of the Office of Foreign Assets Control or by any other person to whom the Secretary of the Treasury has delegated authority so to act.

Subpart I—Paperwork Reduction Act**§ 540.901 Paperwork Reduction Act notice.**

For approval by the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”) under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507) of information collections relating to recordkeeping and reporting requirements, licensing

procedures (including those pursuant to statements of licensing policy), and other procedures, see § 501.901 of this chapter. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid control number assigned by OMB.

Dated: December 26, 2000.

R. Richard Newcomb,

Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control.

Approved: January 2, 2001.

Elisabeth A. Bresee,

*Assistant Secretary (Enforcement),
Department of the Treasury.*

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