

Revised Sanctions Between U.S. and Cuba

Effective June 5, 2019, the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) amended the Cuban Assets Control Regulations (CACR) to align with President Trump's foreign policy towards Cuba, which he outlined in 2017 in his National Security Presidential Memorandum (NSPR) "Strengthening the Policy of the United States Toward Cuba" (84 FR 25992).

The new amendments will continue to restrict trade with Cuba. Unless authorized by the CACR, U.S. citizens are prohibited from transacting business or investing in Cuba. U.S. citizens may import Cuban products only for gifts if the products are valued at \$100 or less or for personal use. Commercial engagements in place prior to November 9, 2017, will continue to be permitted. (U.S., 2019)

These amendments accompany changes to the Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security's (BIS) Export Administration Regulations (EAR), which restrict travel to Cuba. The U.S. will no longer authorize group educational travel to Cuba. Unless a group with previous authorization made at least one travel-related transaction before June 5, 2019, qualifying it under a "grandfathering provision," they will not be allowed to complete their trip (84 FR 25992). Furthermore, the amendments will remove authorization for export or reexport of most passenger and recreational vessels and non-commercial aircraft. Thus, "private and corporate aircraft, cruise ships, sailboats, fishing boats, and other similar aircraft and vessels generally will be prohibited from going to Cuba" under these new provisions (84 FR 25986).

Sources:

Bureau of Industry and Security, Commerce. (2019, June 5). Restricting the temporary sojourn of aircraft and vessels to Cuba. 84 FR 25986. *Federal Registrar*. Retrieved from <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/06/05/2019-11777/restricting-the-temporary-sojourn-of-aircraft-and-vessels-to-cuba>

Office of Foreign Assets Control, Treasury. (2019, June 5). Cuban Assets Control Regulations. 84 FR 25992. *Federal Registrar*. 25992-25993. Retrieved from <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/06/05/2019-11755/cuban-assets-control-regulations>

U.S. Department of the Treasury Office of Foreign Assets Control. (2019, June 4). Frequently asked questions related to Cuba. *U.S. Department of Commerce*. 22-23. Retrieved from <https://www.commerce.gov/>

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