

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20230

URAL Airlines JSC
Utrenniy Lane 1-g,
Yekaterinburg, Russia 620025

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ORDER TEMPORARILY DENYING EXPORT PRIVILEGES

Pursuant to Section 766.24 of the Export Administration Regulations, 15 C.F.R. Parts 730-774 (2021) (“EAR” or “the Regulations”),¹ the Bureau of Industry and Security (“BIS”), U.S. Department of Commerce, through its Office of Export Enforcement (“OEE”), has requested the issuance of an Order temporarily denying, for a period of 180 days, the export privileges under the Regulations of Russian airline URAL Airlines JSC (“URAL”). OEE’s request and related information indicates that URAL is headquartered in Yekaterinburg, Russia.

I. Legal Standard

Pursuant to Section 766.24, BIS may issue an order temporarily denying a respondent’s export privileges upon a showing that the order is necessary in the public interest to prevent an “imminent violation” of the Regulations, or any order, license or authorization issued thereunder.

¹ On August 13, 2018, the President signed into law the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019, which includes the Export Control Reform Act of 2018, 50 U.S.C. §§ 4801-4852 (“ECRA”). While Section 1766 of ECRA repeals the provisions of the Export Administration Act, 50 U.S.C. App. § 2401 *et seq.* (“EAA”), (except for three sections which are inapplicable here), Section 1768 of ECRA provides, in pertinent part, that all orders, rules, regulations, and other forms of administrative action that were made or issued under the EAA, including as continued in effect pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. § 1701 *et seq.* (“IEEPA”), and were in effect as of ECRA’s date of enactment (August 13, 2018), shall continue in effect according to their terms until modified, superseded, set aside, or revoked through action undertaken pursuant to the authority provided under ECRA. Moreover, Section 1761(a)(5) of ECRA authorizes the issuance of temporary denial orders. 50 U.S.C. § 4820(a)(5).

15 C.F.R. §§ 766.24(b)(1) and 766.24(d). “A violation may be ‘imminent’ either in time or degree of likelihood.” 15 C.F.R. § 766.24(b)(3). BIS may show “either that a violation is about to occur, or that the general circumstances of the matter under investigation or case under criminal or administrative charges demonstrate a likelihood of future violations.” Id. As to the likelihood of future violations, BIS may show that the violation under investigation or charge “is significant, deliberate, covert and/or likely to occur again, rather than technical or negligent[.]” Id. A “lack of information establishing the precise time a violation may occur does not preclude a finding that a violation is imminent, so long as there is sufficient reason to believe the likelihood of a violation.” Id.

II. OEE’s Request For A Temporary Denial Order (“TDO”)

The U.S. Commerce Department, through BIS, responded to the Russian Federation’s (“Russia’s”) further invasion of Ukraine by implementing a sweeping series of stringent export controls that severely restrict Russia’s access to technologies and other items that it needs to sustain its aggressive military capabilities. These controls primarily target Russia’s defense, aerospace, and maritime sectors and are intended to cut off Russia’s access to vital technological inputs, atrophy key sectors of its industrial base, and undercut Russia’s strategic ambitions to exert influence on the world stage. Effective February 24, 2022, BIS imposed expansive controls on aviation-related (e.g., Commerce Control List Categories 7 and 9) items to Russia, including a license requirement for the export, reexport or transfer (in-country) to Russia of any aircraft or aircraft parts specified in Export Control Classification Number (ECCN) 9A991 (Section 746.8(a)(1) of the EAR).² BIS will review any export or reexport license applications

² 87 Fed. Reg. 12226 (Mar. 3, 2022). Additionally, BIS published a final rule effective April 8, 2022, which imposed licensing requirements on items controlled on the Commerce Control List (“CCL”) under Categories 0-2

for such items under a policy of denial. *See* Section 746.8(b). Effective March 2, 2022, BIS excluded any aircraft registered in, owned, or controlled by, or under charter or lease by Russia or a national of Russia from being eligible for license exception Aircraft, Vessels, and Spacecraft (AVS) (Section 740.15 of the EAR).³ Accordingly, any U.S.-origin aircraft or foreign aircraft that includes more than 25% controlled U.S.-origin content, and that is registered in, owned, or controlled by, or under charter or lease by Russia or a national of Russia, is subject to a license requirement before it can travel to Russia.

OEE’s request is based upon facts indicating that URAL engaged in conduct prohibited by the Regulations by operating multiple aircraft subject to the EAR and classified under ECCN 9A991, including but not limited to those below, on international flights, including from Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; Dushanbe, Tajikistan; Khudzhand, Tajikistan and Tamchy, Kyrgyzstan to Russia after March 2, 2022, without the required BIS authorization. Pursuant to Section 746.8 of the EAR, all of these flights would have required export or reexport licenses from BIS. URAL flights would not be eligible to use license exception AVS. No BIS authorizations were either sought or obtained by URAL for these exports or reexports to Russia.

The information about these international and domestic flights includes the following:

Tail Number	Serial Number	Aircraft Type	Departure/Arrival Cities	Dates
RA-73817	5055	A320-232	Bishkek, KG / Samara, RU	October 6, 2022
RA-73817	5055	A320-232	Dushanbe, TJ / Irkutsk, RU	September 10, 2022
RA-73817	5055	A320-232	Khudzhand, TJ / Sochi, RU	September 6, 2022

that are destined for Russia or Belarus. Accordingly, now all CCL items require export, reexport, and transfer (in-country) licenses if destined for or within Russia or Belarus. 87 Fed. Reg. 22130 (Apr. 14, 2022).

³ 87 Fed. Reg. 13048 (Mar. 8, 2022).

RA-73817	5055	A320-232	Tamchy, KG / Moscow, RU	September 5, 2022
RA-73817	5055	A320-232	Bishkek, KG / Yekaterinburg, RU	September 3, 2022
RA-73817	5055	A320-232	Dushanbe, TJ / Krasnoyarsk, RU	September 1, 2022
RA-73818	2376	A320-232	Khudzhand, TJ / Yekaterinburg, RU	October 6, 2022
RA-73818	2376	A320-232	Khudzhand, TJ / Yekaterinburg, RU	September 12, 2022
RA-73818	2376	A320-232	Dushanbe, TJ / Mineralnye Vode, RU	September 9, 2022
RA-73818	2376	A320-232	Tamchy, KG / Moscow, RU	September 9, 2022
RA-73818	2376	A320-232	Dushanbe, TJ / Chelyabinsk, RU	September 5, 2022
RA-73818	2376	A320-232	Bishkek, KG / Sochi, RU	September 5, 2022
RA-73844	1941	A321-231	Khudzhand, TJ / Moscow, RU	October 5, 2022
RA-73844	1941	A321-231	Bishkek, KG / Moscow, RU	September 12, 2022
RA-73844	1941	A321-231	Khudzhand, TJ / Moscow, RU	September 11, 2022
RA-73844	1941	A321-231	Bishkek, KG / Moscow, RU	September 8, 2022
RA-73844	1941	A321-231	Bishkek, KG / Moscow, RU	August 29, 2022
RA-73844	1941	A321-231	Bishkek, KG / Moscow, RU	August 25, 2022

Based upon the on-going violations by URAL, there are heightened concerns of future violations of the EAR, especially given that any subsequent actions taken with regard to any of the listed aircraft, or other URAL aircraft exported or reexported to Russia after March 2, 2022, may violate the EAR. Such actions include, but are not limited to, refueling, maintenance, repair, or the provision of spare parts or services. *Id.*

Moreover, additional concerns of future violations of the Regulations are raised by public information on URAL's website, available as of the date of this order, indicating that URAL

intends to continue its domestic and international flight routes. Specifically, URAL's website continues to advertise flights within Russia,⁴ as well as international flights from Moscow, Russia to Bishkek and Osh, cities in Kyrgyzstan, and Kulyab, Tajikistan.⁵ Given BIS's review policy of denial under Section 746.8(a) of the Regulations for exports and reexports to Russia, it is foreseeable that URAL will attempt to evade the Regulations in order to obtain new or additional aircraft parts for or service its existing aircraft that were exported or reexported to Russia in violation of Section 746.8 of the Regulations in order to continue operating on domestic routes in Russia.

III. Findings

Under the applicable standard set forth in Section 766.24 of the Regulations and my review of the entire record, I find that the evidence presented by BIS convincingly demonstrates that URAL took actions in apparent violation of the Regulations by operating the aircraft cited above, among many others, on flights into Russia after March 2, 2022, without the required BIS authorization. Moreover, the continued operation of these aircraft by URAL and the company's on-going need to acquire replacement parts and components, many of which are U.S.-origin, presents a high likelihood of imminent violations warranting imposition of a TDO. I further find that such apparent violations have been "significant, deliberate, covert and/or likely to occur again, rather than technical or negligent[.]" Therefore, issuance of the TDO is necessary in the public interest to prevent imminent violation of the Regulations and to give notice to companies and individuals in the United States and abroad that they should avoid dealing with URAL, in

⁴ https://www.uralairlines.ru/en/special_offers/#42905

⁵ https://www.uralairlines.ru/en/special_offers/#8188

connection with export and reexport transactions involving items subject to the Regulations and in connection with any other activity subject to the Regulations.

This Order is being issued on an *ex parte* basis without a hearing based upon BIS's showing of an imminent violation in accordance with Section 766.24 and 766.23(b) of the Regulations.

IV. Order

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

FIRST, **URAL Airlines JSC**, Utrenniy Lane 1-g, Yekaterinburg, Russia 620025 when acting for or on their behalf, any successors or assigns, agents, or employees may not, directly or indirectly, participate in any way in any transaction involving any commodity, software or technology (hereinafter collectively referred to as "item") exported or to be exported from the United States that is subject to the EAR, or in any other activity subject to the EAR including, but not limited to:

A. Applying for, obtaining, or using any license (except directly related to safety of flight), license exception, or export control document;

B. Carrying on negotiations concerning, or ordering, buying, receiving, using, selling, delivering, storing, disposing of, forwarding, transporting, financing, or otherwise servicing in any way, any transaction involving any item exported or to be exported from the United States that is subject to the EAR except directly related to safety of flight and authorized by BIS pursuant to Section 764.3(a)(2) of the Regulations, or engaging in any other activity subject to the EAR except directly related to safety of flight and authorized by BIS pursuant to Section 764.3(a)(2) of the Regulations; or

C. Benefitting in any way from any transaction involving any item exported or to be exported from the United States that is subject to the EAR, or from any other activity subject to the EAR except directly related to safety of flight and authorized by BIS pursuant to Section 764.3(a)(2) of the Regulations.

SECOND, that no person may, directly or indirectly, do any of the following:

A. Export, reexport, or transfer (in-country) to or on behalf of URAL any item subject to the EAR except directly related to safety of flight and authorized by BIS pursuant to Section 764.3(a)(2) of the Regulations;

B. Take any action that facilitates the acquisition or attempted acquisition by URAL of the ownership, possession, or control of any item subject to the EAR that has been or will be exported from the United States, including financing or other support activities related to a transaction whereby URAL acquires or attempts to acquire such ownership, possession or control except directly related to safety of flight and authorized by BIS pursuant to Section 764.3(a)(2) of the Regulations;

C. Take any action to acquire from or to facilitate the acquisition or attempted acquisition from URAL of any item subject to the EAR that has been exported from the United States except directly related to safety of flight and authorized by BIS pursuant to Section 764.3(a)(2) of the Regulations;

D. Obtain from URAL in the United States any item subject to the EAR with knowledge or reason to know that the item will be, or is intended to be, exported from the United States except directly related to safety of flight and authorized by BIS pursuant to Section 764.3(a)(2) of the Regulations; or

E. Engage in any transaction to service any item subject to the EAR that has been or will be exported from the United States and which is owned, possessed or controlled by URAL, or service any item, of whatever origin, that is owned, possessed or controlled by URAL if such service involves the use of any item subject to the EAR that has been or will be exported from the United States except directly related to safety of flight and authorized by BIS pursuant to Section 764.3(a)(2) of the Regulations. For purposes of this paragraph, servicing means installation, maintenance, repair, modification, or testing.

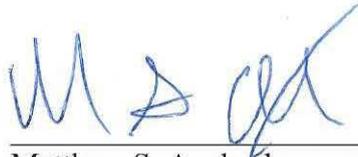
THIRD, that, after notice and opportunity for comment as provided in section 766.23 of the EAR, any other person, firm, corporation, or business organization related to URAL by ownership, control, position of responsibility, affiliation, or other connection in the conduct of trade or business may also be made subject to the provisions of this Order.

In accordance with the provisions of Sections 766.24(e) of the EAR, URAL may, at any time, appeal this Order by filing a full written statement in support of the appeal with the Office of the Administrative Law Judge, U.S. Coast Guard ALJ Docketing Center, 40 South Gay Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202-4022.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 766.24(d) of the EAR, BIS may seek renewal of this Order by filing a written request not later than 20 days before the expiration date. A renewal request may be opposed by URAL as provided in Section 766.24(d), by filing a written submission with the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Enforcement, which must be received not later than seven days before the expiration date of the Order.

A copy of this Order shall be provided to URAL and shall be published in the *Federal Register*.

This Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect for 180 days.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M S Axelrod', is written above a horizontal line.

Matthew S. Axelrod
Assistant Secretary of Commerce
for Export Enforcement

Dated: October 13, 2022.