Export Controls

Telecommunications Export Rules for Sudan Eased by Commerce, Treasury Departments

Treasury Issues General License

Key Development: U.S. government seeks to facilitate national dialogue in Sudan.

What's Next: Rules become effective upon publications.

By Len Bracken

Feb. 17 — The license regulations concerning exports of telecommunications equipment to Sudan would be eased under a final rule scheduled to be published Feb. 18 in the Federal Register (Docket No. 140812661-4661-01; RIN 0694–AG24).

The rule, issued by the Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS), amends the Export Administration Regulations to revise the general licensing policy of denial to one of case-by-case licensing for exports and reexports to Sudan of telecommunications equipment and associated computers software, and technology for civil end use.

Bart Fisher, counsel for the government of Sudan, told Bloomberg BNA the Commerce rule is intended to help implement a Feb. 18 final rule by Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) that amends the Sudanese Sanctions Regulations by adding a general license pertaining to certain software, hardware and services related to personal communications.

"The Treasury Department said wants to foster freedom of personal communications in Sudan as a way to facilitate a national dialogue," Fisher said, noting that the department also wants the Sudanese Sanctions Regulations (SSR) to track what it calls the "Iran model" of sanctions.

Commerce's BIS said the revised export license regulations include items useful for the development of civil telecommunications network infrastructure.

The export control final rule also revises the License Exception for Consumer Communications Devices (CCD), which previously applied only to consumer communications devices to Cuba, to authorize exports and reexports of such devices to Sudan.

"BIS is making these changes consistent with the U.S. Government's commitment to the advancement of the free flow of information to, from, and within Sudan, including during a national dialogue," the final rule said.

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