

OFFICE OF FOREIGN ASSETS CONTROL

REPORT OF LICENSING ACTIVITIES

PURSUANT TO

THE TRADE SANCTIONS REFORM AND EXPORT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2000

October - December 2006

I. Overview

This report is submitted pursuant to Section 906(b) of the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000 ("TSRA") and covers activities undertaken by the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control ("OFAC") under Section 906(a)(1) of the TSRA from October through December 2006. Under the procedures established in its TSRA-related regulations, OFAC processes license applications requesting authorization to export agricultural commodities, medicine, and medical devices to Iran and Sudan under the one-year specific licensing regime set forth in Section 906 of the TSRA.

There was a 20.3 percent decrease in the number of license applications received during this reporting quarter from the prior quarter (185 for Oct.-Dec. 2006, 232 for Jul.-Sep. 2006). OFAC was able to issue licensing determinations¹ on 30.3 percent of all the license applications received during the October – December 2006 period (compared to 22.0 percent for the Jul.-Sep. 2006 period), and issued additional determinations after the quarter ended. The average processing time for issuing licenses increased by 56.4 percent to 69.9 business days in this quarter of operation, and the average time for issuing licensing determinations increased by 55.3 percent to 64.0 business days versus 41.2 business days in the preceding quarter.

The increased complexity and length of license applications (the majority of applications pertain to the export of medical devices to Iran) coupled with the more protracted scrutiny on the part of other reviewing agencies continued to affect processing time of license applications in this quarter. These cases are evaluated by other agencies both in terms of whether the foreign entities involved in the transaction "promote international terrorism," as required in section 906 of the TSRA, and in terms of whether the commodities at issue implicate independent export control regimes involving chemical or biological weapons or weapons of mass destruction as provided in section 904(2)(C) of the TSRA.

II. Program Operation

From October 1 to December 31, 2006, OFAC's Licensing Division received a total of 185 license applications pursuant to Section 906(a)(1) of the TSRA. During this period, OFAC issued licensing determinations on 57 of the 185 license applications. One hundred seventy-

¹A licensing determination is defined as any action, either intermediate or final, that OFAC takes on a license application. It may take the form of a license, a license amendment, a "return-without-action" letter, a general information letter, an interpretative letter, a denial letter, a telephone call, a fax, or an e-mail.

one (171) licenses and 14 license amendments² were issued from October through December (*See Charts 1 and 2*). On average, licenses and license amendments were issued within 69.9 business days of receipt of the application. Upon completion, 88.1 percent (163 in total)³ of the licenses and license amendments issued were sent via e-mail in Adobe Acrobat PDF format to licensees, a service that generated very favorable comment by licensees. In addition, OFAC issued 26 “return-without-action” letters (“RWA letters”) (average turnaround: 24.1 business days), and two denial letters (turnaround: 62.0 business days – also subject to interagency review) (*See Graph 1*). The average number of business days for the Licensing Division to issue a licensing determination in response to submissions to OFAC on any license application under the TSRA regulations was 64.0 business days, an increase of 55.3 percent compared with last quarter’s average of 41.2 business days. The total number of licenses/license amendments, RWA letters, and denial letters issued does not equal the number of license applications received because: (1) not all license applications received during this quarter were closed in this quarter; (2) some license applications pending from prior quarters of operation were closed in this quarter; (3) in some instances multiple applications from the same license applicant were combined into one license; and (4) a few license applications were handled via telephone, fax, or e-mail.

As in past quarters, the preponderance of license applications submitted and licenses/license amendments issued was for Iran (*See Chart 3*). A total of 160 license applications (86.5%) was received for Iran, in contrast to 22 (11.9%) for Sudan. Likewise, 168 licenses/license amendments (90.8%) were issued for the sale of agricultural commodities, medicine, and medical devices to Iran, versus 22 (11.9%) for Sudan. In keeping with the program’s trend, half of the license applications (50.3%) and 38.9 percent of the licenses/license amendments were for the export of medical devices to Iran and Sudan. Of the 160 license applications for Iran, 65 (40.6%) were for agricultural commodities, 20 (12.5%) for medicine, and 75 (46.9%) for medical devices. Of the 168 licenses/license amendments issued for Iran, 78 (46.4%) were for agricultural commodities, 25 (14.9%) for medicine, and 65 (38.7%) for medical devices. The percentage breakdown of the 22 license applications for Sudan is: four (18.2%) for agricultural commodities, two (9.1%) for medicine, and 16 (72.7%) for medical devices. Of the 17 licenses/license amendments issued for Sudan, seven (41.2%) were for agricultural commodities, three (17.6%) for medicine, and seven (41.2%) for medical devices.

CHART 1
Number of License Applications and Licenses Issued by Product

	Agricultural Commodities	Medicine	Medical Devices	TOTAL
License Applications	70	22	93	185
Licenses Issued	72	27	72	171
License Amendments Issued	13	1	0	14
Applications Denied	0	0	2	2

² A “license amendment” is an amendment to an existing license previously issued by OFAC. Some license amendment applications require interagency review, such as those adding an additional end-user or additional commodities to an existing license.

³ Compared with 90.2 percent (55 in total) for Jul.-Sep. 2006.

CHART 2
Number of License Applications and Licenses Issued by Country

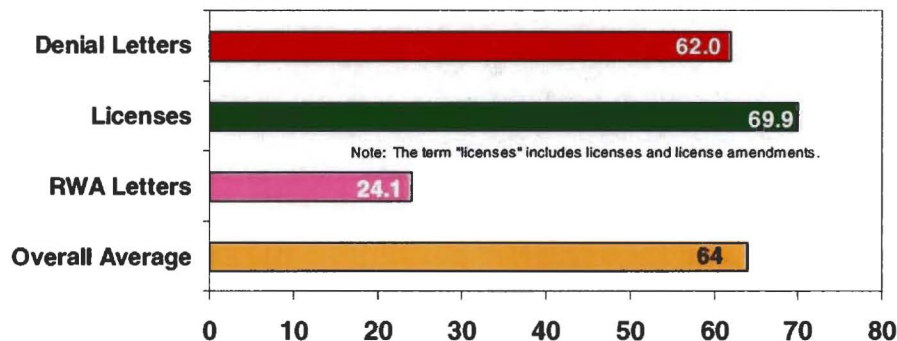
	Iran	Sudan	TOTAL
License Applications^{4,5}	160	22	185
Licenses Issued	154	17	171
License Amendments Issued	14	0	14
Applications Denied	2	0	2

CHART 3
Number of License Applications and Licenses Issued by Country and Product

	Agricultural Commodities	Medicine	Medical Devices	TOTAL
IRAN				
License Applications	65	20	75	160
Licenses and License Amendments Issued	78	25	65	168
SUDAN				
License Applications	4	2	16	22
Licenses and License Amendments Issued	7	3	7	17

GRAPH 1

Average Time for Issuing Licensing Determinations
(business days)



⁴ OFAC received one license application for Libya in this quarter of operation. Effective September 21, 2004, Executive Order 13357 terminated the emergency declared in Executive Order 12543 with respect to the policies and actions of the Government of Libya and revoked related Executive Orders. Accordingly, no OFAC license is required for exports to Libya. Executive Order 13357 does not, however, eliminate the need to comply with the licensing provisions of the Export Administration Regulations, 15 C.F.R. Parts 730 et seq.

⁵ OFAC received two license applications for Syria in this quarter of operation. On December 12, 2003, President Bush signed the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act ("SAA") (Public Law 108-175). On May 11, 2004, President Bush issued Executive Order 13338 to implement §§ 5(a)(1), 5(a)(2)(A), and 5(a)(2)(D) of the SAA. Section 5(a)(1) of the SAA requires a prohibition on the export to Syria of all items on the Commerce Control List. Section 5(a)(2)(A) prohibits the export or reexport to Syria of all products of the United States, with the exception of food and medicine. The result of the implementation of §§ 5(a)(1) and 5(a)(2)(A) of the SAA is to restrict the export and reexport of all items subject to the Export Administration Regulations to Syria. The Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security is responsible for licensing exports and reexports, including food and medicine, to Syria.