



## Sanctions and Export Controls Relief for Syria

updated December 2025

### Overview

The United States remains committed to supporting a stable, unified, and peaceful Syria. On May 13, 2025, President Trump announced the lifting of U.S. sanctions on Syria to give the country a chance at peace and prosperity. In June, the President issued [Executive Order](#) (E.O.) 14312,<sup>1</sup> which formally removed U.S. sanctions and directed agencies to take additional measures, summarized below, to encourage U.S. private sector and foreign partner re-engagement in Syria. Removing U.S. sanctions will support Syria's efforts to rebuild its economy, provide prosperity for all its citizens, including its ethnic and religious minorities, and combat terrorism.

#### *What business with Syria is permissible?*

- The United States no longer imposes comprehensive sanctions on Syria; thus, U.S. sanctions no longer act as a barrier to most business involving Syria.
- Congress repealed the Caesar Act and its mandatory sanctions.
- The transfer of most basic civilian use U.S.-origin goods, as well as software and technology, to or within Syria is permitted without a license.

#### *What restrictions remain?*

- Sanctions remain on “the worst of the worst:” Bashar al-Assad and his associates, human rights abusers, captagon drug traffickers, and other destabilizing regional actors.
- The U.S. government continues to review Syria's State Sponsor of Terrorism (SST) designation.
- Most Commerce Control List items going to Syria still require a U.S. export license.

### Available Sanctions and Export Controls Relief

- Removal of Comprehensive U.S. Sanctions: On June 30, the President terminated the Syria sanctions program, removing comprehensive sanctions on Syria.<sup>2</sup> Sanctions remain on

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<sup>1</sup> Executive Order 14312: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/06/providing-for-the-revocation-of-syria-sanctions/>

<sup>2</sup> The Syria sanctions program was formerly implemented by the Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), through regulation at 31 C.F.R. part 542. A final rule to remove the Syria Sanctions Regulations from the Code of Federal Regulations was published on August 25, 2025.

Bashar al-Assad and his associates, human rights abusers, captagon traffickers, persons linked to Syria's past proliferation activities, ISIS and Al-Qa'ida affiliates, and Iran and its proxies under E.O. 13894 "Promoting Accountability for Assad and Regional Stabilization Sanctions"<sup>3</sup> and other sanctions authorities.

- Syria General License (GL) 25<sup>4</sup>: In addition to the removal of the Syria sanctions program, the Department of the Treasury published GL 25 on May 23, which authorizes U.S. persons, to the extent still necessary, to engage in transactions involving certain blocked persons related to Syria that would otherwise still be prohibited following the removal of the Syria sanctions program. This allows for the provision of services to Syrian governing institutions, even if the leadership of the institution is designated. For more information on GL 25 please click [here](#).
- Syria Accountability Act: On June 30, the President waived the application of the Syria Accountability Act with respect to certain items on the Commerce Control List. This waiver relaxes export controls and facilitates commercial activity and economic development to the benefit of the Syrian people.
- Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) Designation: On July 8, the Secretary of State revoked the FTO designation<sup>5</sup> of al-Nusrah Front, also known as Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS).
- Chemical and Biological Weapons Control and Warfare Elimination Act of 1991 (CBW Act) Sanctions Waiver: Effective July 20, the Secretary of State waived the restrictions under the CBW Act on Syria related to foreign assistance, U.S. government credit, credit guarantees, or other financial assistance; exports of specified goods and technology; and loans and credit from U.S. financial institutions to the Government of Syria.
- Export Controls: On September 2, the Department of Commerce implemented a rule<sup>6</sup> easing licensing requirements for dual-use exports to Syria. U.S.-origin goods, software, and technology that have predominantly civilian uses, as well as specified consumer communications devices and certain items related to civil aviation, no longer require an export license. In addition, the rule facilitates the approval of licenses for exports to Syria related to telecommunications infrastructure, sanitation, power generation, civil aviation, and certain other civil services that support peace and prosperity in Syria. All other applications for exports of dual-use items to Syria will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) Designations: On November 7, the United States removed Muhammad al-Jawlani (Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa) and Syrian Interior Minister Anas Hasan Khattab from the Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) list.

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<sup>3</sup> Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), Promoting Accountability for Assad and Regional Stabilization Sanctions (PAARSS): <https://ofac.treasury.gov/sanctions-programs-and-country-information/paarss>

<sup>4</sup> Issuance of Syria General License 25, May 23, 2025: <https://ofac.treasury.gov/media/934306/download?inline>

<sup>5</sup> Department of State Revocation of HTS FTO Designation: <https://www.state.gov/releases/office-of-the-spokesperson/2025/07/revoking-the-foreign-terrorist-organization-designation-of-hayat-tahrir-al-sham>

<sup>6</sup> Department of Commerce Export Controls: <https://www.bis.gov/node/18307>

- The Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019 (Caesar Act) Repeal: On December 18, the President signed legislation repealing the Caesar Act, removing the threat of mandatory Caesar Act sanctions for foreign persons providing support to the Government of Syria and engaging in certain transactions involving Syrian industry, including the infrastructure and energy sectors.

## **Conclusion**

President Trump is delivering on his commitment to give Syria “a chance at greatness” and to let them rebuild and thrive by lifting U.S. sanctions and ensuring accountability for harmful actors. The U.S. government has adopted new policies and regulatory posture to encourage U.S. businesses and banks, the international community, the Syrian people, and regional partners to contribute to Syria’s stability while denying resources to harmful actors. To that end, the U.S. government will coordinate with the public and private sector to provide guidance to support these new policies. The U.S. government retains other authorities, including the International Emergency Economic Powers Act and the Export Control Reform Act of 2018, to maintain and implement national security measures if needed.