Bureau of Industry and Security

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 24, 2022
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WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) Assistant Secretary for Export Enforcement Matthew S. Axelrod issued orders denying the export privileges of three Russian airlines – Nordwind Airlines, Pobeda Airlines, and S7 Airlines – due to ongoing apparent violations of the comprehensive export controls imposed on Russia by the Commerce Department. These three Temporary Denial Orders (TDOs) terminate the right of these airlines to participate in transactions subject to the Export Administration Regulations (EAR), including exports and reexports from the United States. Today’s TDOs are issued for 180 days and may be renewed.

“In response to Russia’s unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, the United States and our partners have put in place sweeping restrictions on Russia’s aerospace sector,” said Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Enforcement Matthew S. Axelrod. “Today’s actions make a total of eight different Russian airlines that are now cut off from the parts, components, and maintenance services they need to sustain operations – all because they continued to violate those restrictions.”

On February 24, 2022, BIS imposed expansive controls on aviation-related items to Russia, including a license requirement for the export, reexport or transfer (in-country) to Russia of any aircraft or aircraft parts on the Commerce Control List.

On March 2, 2022, BIS further 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). Accordingly, any U.S.-origin aircraft or foreign aircraft that includes more than 25% controlled U.S.-origin content is subject to a license requirement if, for example, it is Russian-owned or operated and exported to Russia.

The TDOs issued today ban Nordwind Airlines, Pobeda Airlines, and S7 Airlines from participating in any transactions subject to the EAR, including exports from the United States and reexports of U.S. items and technologies subject to the EAR from abroad. Today’s TDOs may be renewed after 180 days.
BIS has led the Department of Commerce’s efforts in response to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine by taking a number of powerful regulatory and enforcement actions, including issuing public notice of potential violations of the EAR in the aerospace sector and issuing TDOs on major Russian airlines Aeroflot, Aviastar, Azur Air, Rossiya, and Utair, as well as Belarus’ flag carrier Belavia Airlines. The text of the full TDOs are available on BIS’s website here.

BIS also continues to notify the public that providing any form of service to aircraft subject to the EAR that may have violated these controls on Russia or Belarus requires authorization. Absent such authorization, any person anywhere—including within Belarus or Russia—risks violating the EAR and would be subject to BIS enforcement actions, which could include substantial jail time, fines, loss of export privileges, or other restrictions. By preventing these aircraft from receiving any service, international flights from Belarus or Russia on these aircraft are effectively grounded. As part of this effort, BIS periodically updates changes to tail numbers of planes already on the list that have flown into Russia and/or Belarus in apparent violation of the EAR. Today, BIS is updating certain tail numbers on this list, which currently totals 159 Russian- and Belarusian-owned/operated aircraft. Current list is available on BIS’s website here.

Additional information on these and other actions taken in response to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine is available on BIS’s website at: https://bis.doc.gov/index.php/policy-guidance/country-guidance/russia-belarus.

The issuance of a TDO is one of the most significant civil sanctions under the EAR and is issued by the Assistant Secretary for Export Enforcement to deny the export privileges of a company or individual to prevent an imminent or on-going export control violation. The three BIS TDOs were issued under the authority of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 and the EAR.

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