



Sanctions and Export Controls Relief for Syria

Updated August 2026

Overview

The United States is committed to supporting a stable, unified, and peaceful Syria that may now contribute to regional security and integration. Removal of comprehensive U.S. sanctions has promoted Syria's efforts to rebuild its economy, provide prosperity for all its citizens, including members of ethnic and religious minorities, and combat terrorism. 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 2025, the President issued Executive Order (E.O.) 14312,¹ which formally removed U.S. sanctions and directed agencies to take additional measures, which they have since taken as summarized below, to encourage U.S. private sector and foreign partner re-engagement in Syria. On August 24, 2026, the Department of State rescinded Syria's State Sponsor of Terrorism (SST) designation.

Available Sanctions Relief

- The United States no longer imposes comprehensive sanctions on Syria and Syrian institutions; U.S. sanctions no longer act as a barrier to most business in Syria.
- Congress repealed the Caesar Act and its mandatory sanctions.
- The State Department rescinded Syria's State Sponsor of Terrorism (SST) designation, revoked Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham's (HTS) Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) designation, and delisted HTS as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT).

What restrictions remain?

List-based sanctions remain on Bashar al-Assad and his associates, human rights abusers, Captagon drug traffickers, and other destabilizing regional actors who remain on the Department of the Treasury's List of Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons (SDN List).

Available Sanctions and Export Controls Relief

- Removal of Comprehensive U.S. Sanctions: On June 30, 2025, the President issued E.O. 14312, which terminated the national emergency and the six previous E.O.s that formed the foundation for Syria sanctions.² Sanctions remain on Bashar al-Assad and his associates, human rights abusers, Captagon traffickers, persons linked to Syria's past proliferation

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

² The Syria sanctions program was formerly implemented by the Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), through 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.

activities, ISIS and Al-Qa'ida affiliates, and Iran and its proxies under E.O. 13894,³ as amended, and other sanctions authorities.

- Syria Accountability Act: On June 30, 2025, 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. On August 24, the Secretary of State waived the Act's prohibition on export to Syria of items on the U.S. Munitions List (USML), and a regulatory amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) is anticipated following the waiver and resolution of other statutorily imposed restrictions.
- Terrorist Designations of HTS: On July 8, 2025, the Secretary of State revoked the FTO designation⁴ of al-Nusrah Front, also known as HTS. Additionally, HTS was removed as an SDGT on August 24, 2026.
- Chemical and Biological Weapons Control and Warfare Elimination Act of 1991 (CBW Act) Sanctions Waiver: Effective July 20, 2025, the President 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. On August 24, the Department of State waived remaining sanctions under the CBW Act, including its restrictions on U.S. sales to Syria under the Arms Export Control Act, on licenses for the export to Syria of items on the USML, on U.S. foreign military financing to Syria, and on Syrian-owned or -controlled air transportation to or from the United States, and notified Congress, with the waiver taking effect in 20 days. A regulatory amendment to the ITAR is anticipated following the waiver and resolution of other statutorily imposed restrictions.
- Export Controls: On September 2, 2025, the Department of Commerce implemented a rule⁵ 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. Following the August 24, 2026, SST rescission, further regulatory adjustments to the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) are expected. Furthermore, the Department of State will publish a regulatory amendment to the ITAR eliminating the policy of denial for licenses and other approvals for exports and imports of defense articles and defense services destined to or originating in Syria, once all relevant statutorily imposed restrictions are resolved.
- Delisting Syrian Government Officials: The United States delisted Muhammad al-Jawlani (Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa) and Syrian Interior Minister Anas Hasan Khattab as SDGTs on November 7, 2025.

³ 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>.

⁴ 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>.

⁵ 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, 2025, 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.
- Rescission of Syria's State Sponsor of Terrorism Designation: On August 24, 2026, the Secretary of State rescinded Syria's SST designation.

Conclusion

President Trump is delivering on his commitment to give Syria “a chance at greatness” and to let Syria rebuild and thrive by lifting U.S. sanctions while ensuring accountability for harmful actors. The U.S. government has adopted new policies and a regulatory posture that 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.