

transactions or dealings with any blocked person other than the transactions described in paragraph (a) of this general license; or

(4) The unblocking of any property blocked pursuant to any part of 31 CFR chapter V, except as authorized by paragraph (a).

(c) Effective August 5, 2019, General License 13B, dated June 26, 2019, is replaced and superseded in its entirety by this General License No. 13C.

Andrea Gacki, *Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control*,

Dated: August 5, 2019.

OFFICE OF FOREIGN ASSETS CONTROL

Executive Order 13850 of November 1, 2018

Blocking Property of Additional Persons Contributing to the Situation in Venezuela

Executive Order 13884 of August 5, 2019

Blocking Property of the Government of Venezuela

GENERAL LICENSE NO. 13D

Authorizing Certain Activities Involving Nynas AB

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this general license, all transactions and activities prohibited by Executive Order (E.O.) 13850, as amended by E.O. 13857 of January 25, 2019, or E.O. 13884, where the only Government of Venezuela entities involved are Nynas AB or any of its subsidiaries, are authorized through 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time, April 14, 2020.

(b) Any payment to or for the direct or indirect benefit of a blocked person other than Nynas AB or any of its subsidiaries that is ordinarily incident and necessary to give effect to transactions authorized in paragraph (a) of this general license and that come into the possession or control of any U.S. person must be placed into a blocked, interest-bearing account located in the United States in accordance with 31 CFR 591.203.

(c) This general license does not authorize:

(1) Any exportation or reexportation of any goods, services, or technology, directly or indirectly, by U.S. persons, wherever located, or from the United States, to the Government of Venezuela, other than to Nynas AB or any of its subsidiaries, or to any other blocked persons;

(2) Any transactions or dealings related to the exportation or

reexportation of diluents, directly or indirectly, to Venezuela;

(3) Any transactions or dealings related to the purchase or acquisition of Venezuelan-origin petroleum or petroleum products, directly or indirectly, by Nynas AB or any of its subsidiaries;

(4) Any transaction that is otherwise prohibited by E.O. 13884, or E.O. 13850, E.O. 13835 of May 21, 2018, E.O. 13827 of March 19, 2018, E.O. 13808 of August 24, 2017, or E.O. 13692 of March 8, 2015, each as amended by E.O. 13857, or any part of 31 CFR chapter V, or any transactions or dealings with any blocked person other than the transactions described in paragraph (a) of this general license; or

(5) The unblocking of any property blocked pursuant to any part of 31 CFR chapter V, except as authorized by paragraph (a).

(d) Effective October 17, 2019, General License 13C, dated August 5, 2019, is replaced and superseded in its entirety by this General License No. 13D.

Bradley T. Smith, *Deputy Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control*,

Dated: October 17, 2019.

OFFICE OF FOREIGN ASSETS CONTROL

Venezuela Sanctions Regulations

31 CFR Part 591

GENERAL LICENSE NO. 13E

Authorizing Certain Activities Involving Nynas AB

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this general license, all transactions and activities prohibited by Executive Order (E.O.) 13850 of November 1, 2018, as amended by E.O. 13857 of January 25, 2019, or E.O. 13884 of August 5, 2019, each as incorporated into the Venezuela Sanctions Regulations, 31 CFR part 591 (the VSR), where the only Government of Venezuela entities involved are Nynas AB or any of its subsidiaries, are authorized through 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time, May 14, 2020.

(b) Any payment to or for the direct or indirect benefit of a blocked person other than Nynas AB or any of its subsidiaries that is ordinarily incident and necessary to give effect to transactions authorized in paragraph (a) of this general license and that come into the possession or control of any U.S. person must be placed into a blocked, interest-bearing account located in the United States in accordance with 31 CFR 591.203.

(c) This general license does not authorize:

(1) Any exportation or reexportation of any goods, services, or technology, directly or indirectly, by U.S. persons, wherever located, or from the United States, to the Government of Venezuela, other than to Nynas AB or any of its subsidiaries, or to any other blocked persons;

(2) Any transactions or dealings related to the exportation or reexportation of diluents, directly or indirectly, to Venezuela;

(3) Any transactions or dealings related to the purchase or acquisition of Venezuelan-origin petroleum or petroleum products, directly or indirectly, by Nynas AB or any of its subsidiaries;

(4) Any transactions or activities otherwise prohibited by the VSR, or any other part of 31 CFR chapter V, or any transactions or activities with any blocked person other than the blocked persons identified in paragraph (a) of this general license; or

(5) The unblocking of any property blocked pursuant to any part of 31 CFR chapter V, except as authorized by paragraph (a).

(d) Effective April 3, 2020, General License No. 13D, dated October 17, 2019, is replaced and superseded in its entirety by this General License No. 13E.

Andrea Gacki, *Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control*,

Dated: April 3, 2020.

Andrea M. Gacki,

Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control.

[FR Doc. 2023–00346 Filed 1–12–23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810–AL–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Office of Foreign Assets Control

31 CFR Part 591

Publication of Venezuela Sanctions Regulations Web General Licenses 8K and 41

AGENCY: Office of Foreign Assets Control, Treasury.

ACTION: Publication of web general licenses.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) is publishing two general licenses (GLs) issued pursuant to the Venezuela Sanctions Regulations: GLs 8K and 41, each of which was previously made available on OFAC's website.

DATES: GLs 8K and 41 were issued on November 26, 2022. See **SUPPLEMENTARY**

INFORMATION for additional relevant dates.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

OFAC: Assistant Director for Licensing, 202–622–2480; Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, 202–622–4855; or Assistant Director for Sanctions Compliance & Evaluation, 202–622–2490.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Availability

This document and additional information concerning OFAC are available on OFAC's website:

www.treas.gov/ofac.

Background

On November 26, 2022, OFAC issued GLs 8K and 41 to authorize certain transactions otherwise prohibited by the Venezuela Sanctions Regulations, 31 CFR part 591. Each GL was made available on OFAC's website (www.treas.gov/ofac) when it was issued. GL 8K was issued on November 26, 2022 and has an expiration date of May 26, 2023. GL 41 was issued on November 26, 2022 and automatically renews on the first day of each month and is valid for a period of six months from the effective date of GL 41 or the date of any subsequent renewal of GL 41, whichever is later. The text of these GLs is provided below.

OFFICE OF FOREIGN ASSETS CONTROL

Venezuela Sanctions Regulations

31 CFR Part 591

GENERAL LICENSE NO. 8K

Authorizing Transactions Involving Petróleos de Venezuela, S.A. (PdVSA) Necessary for the Limited Maintenance of Essential Operations in Venezuela or the Wind Down of Operations in Venezuela for Certain Entities

(a) Except as provided in paragraphs (c) and (d) of this general license, all transactions and activities prohibited by Executive Order (E.O.) 13850 of November 1, 2018, as amended by E.O. 13857 of January 25, 2019, or E.O. 13884 of August 5, 2019, each as incorporated into the Venezuela Sanctions Regulations, 31 CFR part 591 (the VSR), that are ordinarily incident and necessary to the limited maintenance of essential operations, contracts, or other agreements, that: (i) are for safety or the preservation of assets in Venezuela; (ii) involve PdVSA or any entity in which PdVSA owns, directly or indirectly, a 50 percent or greater interest; and (iii) were in effect prior to July 26, 2019, are authorized through 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time, May 26, 2023, for the

following entities and their subsidiaries (collectively, the “Covered Entities”):

- Halliburton
- Schlumberger Limited
- Baker Hughes Holdings LLC
- Weatherford International, Public Limited Company

Note to paragraph (a): Transactions and activities necessary for safety or the preservation of assets in Venezuela that are authorized by paragraph (a) of this general license include: transactions and activities necessary to ensure the safety of personnel, or the integrity of operations and assets in Venezuela; participation in shareholder and board of directors meetings; making payments on third-party invoices for transactions and activities authorized by paragraph (a) of this general license, or incurred prior to April 21, 2020, provided such activity was authorized at the time it occurred; payment of local taxes and purchase of utility services in Venezuela; and payment of salaries for employees and contractors in Venezuela.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (d) of this general license, all transactions and activities prohibited by E.O. 13850, as amended, or E.O. 13884, each as incorporated into the VSR, that are ordinarily incident and necessary to the wind down of operations, contracts, or other agreements in Venezuela involving PdVSA or any entity in which PdVSA owns, directly or indirectly, a 50 percent or greater interest, and that were in effect prior to July 26, 2019, are authorized through 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time, May 26, 2023, for the Covered Entities.

(c) Paragraph (a) of this general license does not authorize:

(1) The drilling, lifting, or processing of, purchase or sale of, or transport or shipping of any Venezuelan-origin petroleum or petroleum products;

(2) The provision or receipt of insurance or reinsurance with respect to the transactions and activities described in paragraph (c)(1) of this general license;

(3) The design, construction, installation, repair, or improvement of any wells or other facilities or infrastructure in Venezuela or the purchasing or provision of any goods or services, except as required for safety;

(4) Contracting for additional personnel or services, except as required for safety; or

(5) The payment of any dividend, including in kind, to PdVSA, or any entity in which PdVSA owns, directly or indirectly, a 50 percent or greater interest.

(d) This general license does not authorize:

(1) Any transactions or dealings related to the exportation or reexportation of diluents, directly or indirectly, to Venezuela;

(2) Any loans to, accrual of additional debt by, or subsidization of PdVSA, or any entity in which PdVSA owns, directly or indirectly, a 50 percent or greater interest, including in kind, prohibited by E.O. 13808 of August 24, 2017, as amended by E.O. 13857, and incorporated into the VSR; or

(3) Any transactions or activities otherwise prohibited by the VSR, or any other part of 31 CFR chapter V, or any transactions or activities with any blocked person other than the blocked persons identified in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this general license.

(e) Effective November 26, 2022, General License No. 8J, dated May 27, 2022, is replaced and superseded in its entirety by this General License No. 8K.

Andrea M. Gacki, *Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control*,

Dated: November 26, 2022.

Venezuela Sanctions Regulations

31 CFR Part 591

GENERAL LICENSE NO. 41

Authorizing Certain Transactions Related to Chevron Corporation's Joint Ventures in Venezuela

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this general license, all transactions ordinarily incident and necessary to the following activities for or related to the operation and management by Chevron Corporation or its subsidiaries (“Chevron”) of Chevron's joint ventures in Venezuela (collectively, the “Chevron JVs”) involving Petróleos de Venezuela, S.A. (PdVSA) or any entity in which PdVSA owns, directly or indirectly, a 50 percent or greater interest, that are prohibited by Executive Order (E.O.) 13850, as amended by E.O. 13857, or E.O. 13884, each as incorporated into the Venezuela Sanctions Regulations, 31 CFR part 591 (the VSR), are authorized:

(1) Production and lifting of petroleum or petroleum products produced by the Chevron JVs, and any related maintenance, repair, or servicing of the Chevron JVs;

(2) Sale to, exportation to, or importation into the United States of petroleum or petroleum products produced by the Chevron JVs, provided that the petroleum and petroleum products produced by the Chevron JVs are first sold to Chevron;

(3) Ensuring the health or safety of personnel or the integrity of operations or assets of the Chevron JVs in Venezuela; and

(4) Purchase and importation into Venezuela of goods or inputs related to the activities described in paragraphs (a)(1)–(3) of this general license,

including diluents, condensates, petroleum, or natural gas products.

Note 1 to paragraph (a)(4). Except as authorized pursuant to the Iranian Transactions Sanctions Regulations, 31 CFR part 560, or otherwise exempt, U.S. persons, wherever located, remain prohibited from engaging in any transaction or dealing in or related to goods or services of Iranian origin, including the purchase or import of Iranian-origin diluents, condensates, petroleum, or natural gas.

(b) This general license does not authorize:

(1) The payment of any taxes or royalties to the Government of Venezuela;

(2) The payment of any dividends, including a dividend in kind, to PdVSA, or any entity in which PdVSA owns, directly or indirectly, a 50 percent or greater interest;

(3) The sale of petroleum or petroleum products produced by or through the Chevron JVs for the exportation to any jurisdiction other than the United States;

(4) Any transaction involving an entity located in Venezuela that is owned or controlled by an entity located in the Russian Federation;

(5) Any expansion of the Chevron JVs into new fields in Venezuela beyond what was in place on January 28, 2019; or

(6) Any transactions otherwise prohibited by the VSR, including transactions involving any person blocked pursuant to the VSR other than the blocked persons described in paragraph (a) of this general license, unless separately authorized.

(c) This authorization automatically renews on the first day of each month and is valid for a period of six months from the effective date of General License No. 41 or the date of any subsequent renewal of General License No. 41, whichever is later.

Note 2 to General License No. 41. Nothing in this general license relieves any person from compliance with the requirements of other Federal agencies, including the Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security.

Andrea M. Gacki, *Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control*,

Dated: November 26, 2022.

Andrea M. Gacki,
Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control.
[FR Doc. 2023-00515 Filed 1-12-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-AL-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

32 CFR Part 269

[Docket ID: DOD-2016-OS-0045]

RIN 0790-AL58

Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment

AGENCY: Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The DoD is issuing this final rule to adjust each of its statutory civil monetary penalties (CMP) to account for inflation. The Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990, as amended by the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 and the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015 (the 2015 Act), requires the head of each agency to adjust for inflation its CMP levels in effect as of November 2, 2015, under a revised methodology that was effective for 2016 and for each year thereafter.

DATES: This rule is effective January 13, 2023.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dzenana Dzanic, 703-508-9277.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background Information

The Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990, Public Law 101-410, codified at 28 U.S.C. 2461, note, as amended, requires agencies to annually adjust the level of CMPs for inflation to improve their effectiveness and maintain their deterrent effect. Section 2461 requires that not later than July 1, 2016, and not later than January 15 of every year thereafter, the head of each agency must adjust each CMP within its jurisdiction by the inflation adjustment set forth therein. The inflation adjustment is determined by increasing the maximum CMP or the range of minimum and maximum CMPs, as applicable, for each CMP by the cost-of-living adjustment, rounded to the nearest multiple of \$1. The cost-of-living adjustment is the percentage (if any) for each CMP by which the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the month of October preceding the date of the adjustment exceeds the CPI for the month of October in the previous calendar year.

The initial catch up adjustments for inflation to the DoD's CMPs were published as an interim final rule in the **Federal Register** on May 26, 2016 (81

FR 33389-33391) and became effective on that date. The interim final rule was published as a final rule without change on September 12, 2016 (81 FR 62629-62631), effective that date. The revised methodology for agencies for 2017 and each year thereafter provides for the improvement of the effectiveness of CMPs to maintain their deterrent effect. The DoD is adjusting the level of all civil monetary penalties under its jurisdiction by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) directed cost-of-living adjustment multiplier for 2023 of 1.07745 prescribed in OMB Memorandum M-23-05, "Implementation of Penalty Inflation Adjustments for 2023, Pursuant to the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015." The DoD's 2023 adjustments for inflation to CMPs apply only to those CMPs, including those whose associated violation predated such adjustment, which are assessed by the DoD after the effective date of the new CMP level.

Statement of Authority and Costs and Benefits

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)B, there is good cause to issue this rule without prior public notice or opportunity for public comment because it would be impracticable and unnecessary. The Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015 (Section 2461) requires agencies, effective 2017, to make annual adjustments for inflation to CMPs notwithstanding 5 U.S.C. 553. Additionally, the methodology used, effective 2017, for adjusting CMPs for inflation is established in statute, with no discretion provided to agencies regarding the substance of the adjustments for inflation to CMPs. The DoD is charged only with performing ministerial computations to determine the dollar amount of adjustments for inflation to CMPs. Accordingly, prior public notice and an opportunity to comment are not required for this rule. For the same reasons, there is good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3) to waive the 30-day delay in effective date.

Further, there are no significant costs associated with the regulatory revisions that would impose any mandates on the DoD, Federal, State or local governments, or the private sector. Accordingly, prior public notice and an opportunity for public comment are not required for this rule. The benefit of this rule is the DoD anticipates that civil monetary penalty collections may increase in the future due to new penalty authorities and other changes in this rule. However, it is difficult to