



SNAPSHOT

MYANMAR SANCTIONS FRAMEWORK

Why are sanctions imposed?

Australia first imposed targeted sanctions on Myanmar in response to the Myanmar Government's failure to recognise the victory of the National League for Democracy in the 1990 Myanmar elections. In 2012, Australia lifted some sanctions measures after the Government of President Thein Sein initiated democratic reforms. However, Australia retained an arms embargo due to concerns about ongoing armed conflict, weapons proliferation and human rights abuses.

In October 2018, Australia imposed new targeted financial sanctions and travel bans on members of the Myanmar military (Tatmadaw). This was in response to the report of the UN Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar, which documented human rights abuses committed primarily by Myanmar's military against ethnic minorities, including Rohingya.

On 1 February 2023, Australia imposed additional targeted financial sanctions and travel bans on individuals responsible for the 2021 coup d'état and for human rights abuses in Myanmar, as well as sanctions on two military-owned holding companies.

On 1 February 2024, Australia imposed further targeted sanctions on five entities in Myanmar, designed to limit the regime's access to the funds and military matériel that enable it to continue to commit atrocities against its own people.

What is prohibited by the Myanmar sanctions framework?

The Myanmar sanctions framework imposes the following sanctions measures:

| Measure | UNSC | Autonomous |
|---|------|------------|
| restrictions on supplying arms or related matériel | - | ✓ |
| restrictions on the provision of certain services | - | ✓ |
| restrictions on providing assets to designated persons or entities | - | ✓ |
| restrictions on dealing with the assets of designated persons or entities | - | ✓ |
| travel bans on declared persons | - | ✓ |

Restrictions on supplying arms or related matériel, and related services

The Myanmar sanctions framework imposes an arms embargo. It is prohibited to:

- directly or indirectly supply, sell or transfer arms or related matériel to Myanmar
- provide a service if it relates to the supply of arms or related matériel to Myanmar
- provide a service to Myanmar, or for use in Myanmar, if it relates to the manufacture, maintenance or use of arms or related matériel.

Arms or related matériel includes, but is not limited to, weapons, ammunition, military vehicles and equipment, and spare parts and accessories for any of those things. It also includes paramilitary equipment. While each case will be considered individually, goods on the Defence and Strategic Goods List are likely to be considered arms or

related matériel. Depending on the context, end user and end use, other goods may also be considered arms or related matériel.

Restrictions on providing assets to designated persons or entities

It is prohibited to directly or indirectly make an asset available to (or for the benefit of) a designated person or entity.

Restrictions on dealing with the assets of designated persons or entities (requirement to freeze assets)

It is prohibited to use or deal with an asset, or allow or facilitate another person to use or deal with an asset owned or controlled by a designated person or entity (the assets are 'frozen' and cannot be used or dealt with). The prohibition on 'dealing' with assets includes using, selling or moving assets. 'An 'asset' includes an asset or property of any kind, whether tangible or intangible, movable or immovable.

Go to the [Consolidated List](#) to search the names of designated persons and entities.

If you become aware that you are holding an asset of a designated person or entity, you are required to freeze (hold) that asset and notify the AFP as soon as possible..

Who must comply with sanctions?

Australian sanction laws apply to activities in Australia and to activities undertaken overseas by Australian citizens and Australian-registered bodies corporate. In some circumstances, it may be possible to obtain a permit from the Minister for Foreign Affairs to engage in an activity that would otherwise be prohibited by a sanctions measure. Information on planning an activity and submitting an application for a sanctions permit is available on the DFAT website. It is a serious criminal offence to contravene a sanctions measure (or a condition of a sanctions permit). The penalties include up to ten years in prison and substantial fines.

Relevant legislation

The relevant legislation for the Myanmar sanctions framework includes the following:

- [Autonomous Sanctions Act 2011](#)
- [Autonomous Sanctions Regulations 2011](#)
- [Autonomous Sanctions \(Designated and Declared Persons – Myanmar\) List 2018](#)
- [Customs \(Prohibited Exports\) Regulations 1958](#)

Where can I get more information?

[Australia and sanctions](#) webpage.

Enquiries can be made to DFAT by emailing sanctions@dfat.gov.au

DFAT maintains a [mailing list](#) for people interested in receiving updates on Australian sanctions laws.

This document provides a summary only of relevant sanctions laws. It should not be relied upon as a substitute for legal advice. It is your responsibility to ensure you do not contravene sanctions law, including by obtaining your own legal advice.