



SNAPSHOT RUSSIA/UKRAINE SANCTIONS REGIME

Why are sanctions imposed?

Australia imposes autonomous sanctions in relation to Russia in response to the Russian threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. They were first imposed in 2014 and extended in 2015, 2022 and 2023.

Australia imposes autonomous sanctions in relation to specified Ukraine regions sanctions in response to the Russian threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. Go to the [Specified Ukraine Regions Sanctions Regime](#) and the [Ukraine Sanctions Regime](#) for further information.

What is prohibited by the Russia/Ukraine sanctions regime?

The Russia/Ukraine sanctions regime imposes six sanctions measures:


Measure	UNSC	Autonomous
restrictions on the export or supply of certain goods		✓
restrictions on the import, purchase or transport of certain goods		✓
restrictions on certain commercial activities		✓
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 designated persons		✓

Restrictions on the export or supply of certain goods

It is prohibited to directly or indirectly supply, sell or transfer to Russia any of the following goods:

- arms or related matériel
- aluminium ores (including bauxite), alumina and related products (as listed in the Autonomous Sanctions (Export Sanctioned Goods – Russia) Designation 2022)
- certain luxury goods (as listed in the above Designation)
- machinery and related goods (as listed in the above Designation)
- items suited for use in the following categories of oil exploration or oil production projects in Russia (as specified in the Autonomous Sanctions (Russia, Crimea and Sevastopol) Specification 2015):
 - i. oil exploration and production in waters deeper than 150 metres;
 - ii. oil exploration and production in the offshore area north of the Arctic Circle;
 - iii. projects that have the potential to produce oil from resources located in shale formations by way of hydraulic fracturing (other than exploration and production through shale formations to locate or extract oil from non-shale reservoirs).

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.



For specified Ukraine regions it is prohibited to directly or indirectly supply, sell or transfer to specified Ukraine regions any of the following goods:

- certain items relating to the creation, acquisition or development of infrastructure for:
 - the transport, telecommunications or energy sectors
 - the exploitation of oil, gas or mineral reserves in Specified Ukraine regions.
- machinery and related goods (as listed in the Autonomous Sanctions (Export Sanctioned Goods – Specified Ukraine Regions) Designation 2023).

Restrictions on the import, purchase or transport of certain goods

It is prohibited to import, purchase or transport the following goods:

- arms or related matériel if they originate in or have been exported from Russia
- any goods which originate in or have been exported from the specified Ukraine regions
- oil, refined petroleum products, natural gas, coal and other energy products (as listed in the Autonomous Sanctions (Import Sanctions Goods – Russia) Designation 2022)
- gold exported from Russia (as defined in the above Designation)

Restrictions on certain commercial activities

The Russia/Ukraine sanctions regime prohibits dealing with financial instruments issued by, or providing loans or credit to:

- specified publicly-owned or controlled Russian banks
- specified Russian companies predominantly engaged in activities relating to military equipment or services
- specified publicly-owned or controlled Russian companies involved in the sale or transport of crude oil or petroleum products
- majority-owned subsidiaries or entities acting as agents for any of the above.

For specified Ukraine regions restrictions are imposed on granting loans/credit and establishing a joint venture relating to:

- the creation, acquisition or development of infrastructure in the transport, telecommunications or energy sectors
- the exploitation of oil or gas, or of specified mineral resources.


Restrictions on the provision of certain services

To complement the restrictions on the export/import of goods and on some commercial activities, the provision of services which relate to some of those sanctioned goods or activities is also restricted. It is prohibited to provide:

- services which relate to the supply of export sanctioned goods to Russia (except items suited for use in certain categories of oil exploration or oil production projects)
- services which relate to the supply of export sanctioned goods to specified Ukraine regions, or to the manufacture, maintenance or use of such goods for the specified Ukraine regions (see 'Restrictions on the export or supply of goods' above)
- financial assistance or financial services which relate to goods originating in or exported from Specified Ukraine regions
- investment services which relate to sanctioned commercial activities for Russia or a specified Ukraine region (see 'Restrictions on commercial activities' above)
- services to Russia, or for use in Russia, which relate to:
 - a military activity, or
 - the manufacture, maintenance or use of arms or related matériel
- services to Specified Ukraine regions, or for use in Specified Ukraine regions, which relate to engagement in a sanctioned commercial activity for Specified Ukraine regions (see 'Restrictions on commercial activities' above)
- certain services to Russia (or to a person or entity for use in Russia) that are necessary for specified types of oil exploration or production projects in Russia. For example, drilling or well-testing services.

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

The Minister for Foreign Affairs may designate a person or entity for targeted financial sanctions if:

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- (a) the Minister is satisfied that the person or entity is responsible for, or complicit in, the threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine
 - (b) the Minister is satisfied that the person or entity is, or has been, engaging in an activity or performing a function that is of economic or strategic significance to Russia
 - (c) the person is a current or former Minister or senior official of the Russian Government
 - (d) the person is an immediate family member of a person mentioned in paragraph (b) or (c).

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

It is also 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. [Go to What You Need to Do](#) for more information.

Travel bans on declared persons

The Minister for Foreign Affairs may declare a person for a travel ban if:

- (a) the Minister is satisfied that the person or entity is responsible for, or complicit in, the threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine
- (b) the Minister is satisfied that the person or entity is, or has been, engaging in an activity or performing a function that is of economic or strategic significance to Russia
- (c) the person is a current or former Minister or senior official of the Russian Government
- (d) the person is an immediate family member of a person mentioned in paragraph (b) or (c).

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 Russia/Ukraine sanctions regime includes the following:

- *Autonomous Sanctions Act 2011*
- *Autonomous Sanctions Regulations 2011*
- *Autonomous Sanctions Amendment (Russia) Regulations 2022*
- *Autonomous Sanctions Amendment (Ukraine Regions) Regulations 2022*
- *Autonomous Sanctions (Russia, Crimea and Sevastopol) Specification 2015*
- *Autonomous Sanctions (Designated Persons and Entities and Declared Persons – Russia and Ukraine) List 2014*
- *Autonomous Sanctions (Import Sanctioned Goods—Russia) Designation 2022*
- *Autonomous Sanctions (Export Sanctioned Goods—Russia) Designation 2022*
- *Autonomous Sanctions (Export Sanctioned Goods – Specified Ukraine Regions) Designation 2023*
- *Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulations 1958*
- *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956*
- *Migration Regulations 1994*



Where can I get more information?

More information on Australia's sanctions can be found on DFAT's website: <https://dfat.gov.au/international-relations/security/sanctions/Pages/sanctions.aspx>.

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. You can subscribe to this list via the [DFAT website](#).

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.