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Heather Achbach,

Federal Register Liaison Officer, Drug Enforcement Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

22 CFR Part 126

[Public Notice: 12306]

RIN 1400–AF80

International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Addition to List of Proscribed Countries

AGENCY: Department of State.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Department of State is amending the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) to add Nicaragua in the list of countries for which it is the policy of the United States to deny licenses or other approvals for exports and imports of defense services and defense articles, except as otherwise provided.

DATES: The rule is effective on March 15, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Maria Tatarska, Foreign Affairs Officer, Office of Defense Trade Controls Policy, U.S. Department of State, telephone (771) 205–7671; email DDTCCustomerService@state.gov ATTN: Regulatory Change, ITAR Section 126.1: Nicaragua.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Due to growing concerns regarding Nicaragua's continuing dismantling of democratic institutions, attacks on civil society, and increased security cooperation with Russia, to include support of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security has determined that it is in the best interests of U.S. national security and foreign policy to restrict, with certain exceptions, the export and import of defense articles and defense services destined for or originating in Nicaragua. This policy reflects the U.S. government's opposition to the trade of arms with Nicaragua and its authoritarian government dominated by President Daniel Ortega Saavedra and his wife, Vice President Rosario Murillo Zambrana. Pursuant to this determination, the Department is adding

Nicaragua to ITAR § 126.1 in paragraph (p). The policy of denial toward Nicaragua applies to licenses or other approvals for exports and imports of defense articles or defense services, except that a license or other approval may be issued on a case-by-case basis for non-lethal military equipment intended solely for humanitarian assistance, to include natural disaster relief. Further, in accordance with ITAR § 129.7, no broker, as described in ITAR § 129.2, may engage in or make a proposal to engage in brokering activities subject to the ITAR that involve Nicaragua without obtaining the approval of the Directorate of Defense Trade Controls. Consistent with ITAR § 129.7(d), the Department of State will apply the same policy of denial to such requests.

Regulatory Analysis and Notices

Administrative Procedure Act

This rulemaking is exempt from the rulemaking requirements of section 553 of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(1) as a military or foreign affairs function of the United States.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

Since this rule is exempt from the notice-and-comment provisions of 5 U.S.C. 553, the rule does not require analysis under the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995

This rulemaking does not involve a mandate that will result in the expenditure by State, local, and tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, of \$100 million or more in any year and it will not significantly or uniquely affect small governments. Therefore, no actions are deemed necessary under the provisions of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995.

Congressional Review Act

The Department does not believe this rulemaking is a major rule within the definition of 5 U.S.C. 804.

Executive Orders 12372 and 13132

This rulemaking does not have sufficient federalism implications to require consultations or warrant the preparation of a federalism summary impact statement. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities do not apply to this rulemaking.

Executive Orders 12866, 13563, and 14094

Executive Order 12866, as amended by Executive Orders 13563 and 14094, directs agencies to assess all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, if regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits (including potential economic, environmental, public health and safety effects, distributed impacts, and equity). As a result of this change, certain exemptions to licensing requirements will not be available for exports, reexports, retransfers, and temporary imports destined for or originating in Nicaragua. However, a license or other approval may be issued on a case-by-case basis for non-lethal military equipment intended solely for humanitarian assistance, to include natural disaster relief. Because the scope of this rule does not impose significant additional regulatory requirements or obligations, the Department believes costs associated with this rule will be minimal. This rule has been designated a “significant regulatory action” by the Office and Information and Regulatory Affairs under Executive Order 12866.

Executive Order 12988

The Department of State has reviewed this rulemaking in light of Executive Order 12988 to eliminate ambiguity, minimize litigation, establish clear legal standards, and reduce burden.

Executive Order 13175

The Department of State determined that this rulemaking will not have Tribal implications, will not impose substantial direct compliance costs on Indian Tribal governments, and will not preempt tribal law. Accordingly, Executive Order 13175 does not apply to this rulemaking.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This rulemaking does not impose or revise any information collections subject to 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35.

List of Subjects in 22 CFR Part 126

Arms and munitions, Exports.

For the reasons set forth above, title 22, chapter I, subchapter M, part 126 is amended as follows:

PART 126—GENERAL POLICIES AND PROVISIONS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 126 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 22 U.S.C. 287c, 2651a, 2752, 2753, 2776, 2778, 2779, 2779a, 2780, 2791, 2797; Sec. 1225, Pub. L. 108–375, 118 Stat. 2091; Sec. 7045, Pub. L. 112–74, 125 Stat.

1232; Sec. 1250A, Pub. L. 116–92, 133 Stat. 1665; Sec. 205, Pub. L. 116–94, 133 Stat. 3052; E.O. 13637, 78 FR 16129, 3 CFR, 2013 Comp., p. 223.

■ 2. Amend § 126.1 by revising table 2 to paragraph (d)(2) and adding paragraph (p) to read as follows:

§ 126.1 Prohibited exports, imports, and sales to or from certain countries.

* * * * *

(d) * * *

(2) * * *

TABLE 2 TO PARAGRAPH (d)(2)

Country	Country specific paragraph location
Afghanistan	See also paragraph (g) of this section.
Central African Republic	See also paragraph (u) of this section.
Cyprus	See also paragraph (r) of this section.
Democratic Republic of Congo	See also paragraph (i) of this section.
Ethiopia	See also paragraph (n) of this section.
Eritrea	See also paragraph (h) of this section.
Haiti	See also paragraph (j) of this section.
Iraq	See also paragraph (f) of this section.
Lebanon	See also paragraph (t) of this section.
Libya	See also paragraph (k) of this section.
Nicaragua	See also paragraph (p) of this section.
Russia	See also paragraph (l) of this section.
Somalia	See also paragraph (m) of this section.
South Sudan	See also paragraph (w) of this section.
Sudan	See also paragraph (v) of this section.
Zimbabwe	See also paragraph (s) of this section.

* * * * *

(p) *Nicaragua*. It is the policy of the United States to deny licenses or other approvals for exports and imports of defense articles or defense services, destined for or originating in Nicaragua, except that a license or other approval may be issued, on a case-by-case basis, for non-lethal military equipment intended solely for humanitarian assistance, to include natural disaster relief.

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Bonnie D. Jenkins,

Under Secretary, Arms Control and International Security, Department of State.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau

27 CFR Part 9

[Docket No. TTB–2023–0004; T.D. TTB–191; Ref: Notice No. 223]

RIN 1513–AC97

Establishment of the Contra Costa Viticultural Area and Modification of the San Francisco Bay and Central Coast Viticultural Areas

AGENCY: Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Treasury.

ACTION: Final rule; Treasury decision.

SUMMARY: The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) establishes the

approximately 167,146-acre “Contra Costa” American viticultural area in Contra Costa County, California. Additionally, TTB is expanding the boundaries of the established San Francisco Bay and Central Coast viticultural areas to avoid a partial overlap with the Contra Costa viticultural area and instead encompass the entire Contra Costa AVA. TTB designates viticultural areas to allow vintners to better describe the origin of their wines and to allow consumers to better identify wines they may purchase.

DATES: This final rule is effective April 15, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Karen A. Thornton, Regulations and Rulings Division, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, 1310 G Street NW, Box 12, Washington, DC 20005; phone 202–453–1039, ext. 175.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background on Viticultural Areas

TTB Authority

Section 105(e) of the Federal Alcohol Administration Act (FAA Act), 27 U.S.C. 205(e), authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to prescribe regulations for the labeling of wine, distilled spirits, and malt beverages. The FAA Act provides that these regulations should, among other things, prohibit consumer deception and the use of misleading statements on labels, and ensure that labels provide the consumer with adequate information as to the identity and quality of the product. The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau

(TTB) administers the FAA Act pursuant to section 1111(d) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, codified at 6 U.S.C. 531(d). In addition, the Secretary of the Treasury has delegated certain administration and enforcement authorities to TTB through Treasury Order 120–01.

Part 4 of the TTB regulations (27 CFR part 4) authorizes TTB to establish definitive viticultural areas and regulate the use of their names as appellations of origin on wine labels and in wine advertisements. Part 9 of the TTB regulations (27 CFR part 9) sets forth standards for the preparation and submission of petitions for the establishment or modification of American viticultural areas (AVAs) and lists the approved AVAs.

Definition

Section 4.25(e)(1)(i) of the TTB regulations (27 CFR 4.25(e)(1)(i)) defines a viticultural area for American wine as a delimited grape-growing region having distinguishing features as described in part 9 of the regulations and, once approved, a name and a delineated boundary codified in part 9 of the regulations. These designations allow vintners and consumers to attribute a given quality, reputation, or other characteristic of a wine made from grapes grown in an area to the wine’s geographic origin. The establishment of AVAs allows vintners to describe more accurately the origin of their wines to consumers and helps consumers to identify wines they may purchase. Establishment of an AVA is neither an