

TIMELINE: U.S. SANCTIONS ON IRAN

FOREIGN DIRECT PRODUCT (FDP) RULE

License required for export of certain foreign-produced dual-use items with drone applications to Iran or any transaction involving the Government of Iran, if U.S.-origin technology is used. Dual-use items covered include machine tools, electronic components, engine parts, ball bearings, and optical and navigational equipment. Initially aimed at countering Iranian drone proliferation to Russia.

2023

2025 – 2026: Resumption of “maximum pressure” sanctions policy denying revenue to the Iranian government and restrictions on military technology and components; military campaign and a U.S. naval blockade of Iranian ports; “Operation Economic Outcast” aims to close “every financial resource” supporting the Iranian state.

2020

EXECUTIVE ORDER 13902

Targets the construction, mining, manufacturing, textile, and financial sectors of Iran's economy and restricts access to the U.S. financial system of any foreign financial institution that facilitates transactions in those sectors.

2018

EXECUTIVE ORDER 13846

Re-imposes banking, energy, and shipping sanctions waived as a result of U.S. participation in the JCPOA, following U.S. withdrawal.

2016 – 2018: Sanctions relief provided through the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

2012

IRAN FREEDOM AND COUNTER-PROLIFERATION ACT (IFCPA)

Targets Iran's shipping, energy, and shipbuilding sectors.

2010

COMPREHENSIVE IRAN SANCTIONS, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND DIVESTMENT ACT (CISADA)

Tightens restrictions on financial investments related to Iran and Iran's development of petroleum resources.

2001 – 2012: Executive orders target Iranian financial institutions, proliferation to and from Iran, terrorism, and Iranian entities enabling human rights abuses; Iran designated as a jurisdiction of primary money laundering concern; and Iran Freedom Support Act signed into law.

2000

IRAN, NORTH KOREA, AND SYRIA NONPROLIFERATION ACT (INKSNA)

Authorizes sanctions on foreign entities that knowingly traffic in items that contribute to the development of WMD or missiles to or from Iran (as of 2000), Syria (as of 2005), and North Korea (as of 2006).

1996

IRAN SANCTIONS ACT (ISA)

Seeks to prevent Iran from using petroleum resources to fund WMD programs and support terrorism by sanctioning non-U.S. entities that knowingly invest in Iran's energy sector; subsequently amended and extended.

Since the national emergency declared in response to the 1979 hostage crisis, the U.S. has sought to block property interests linked to the Government of Iran; the emergency has been renewed annually since that time.

