

Introduction

The Treasury has issued this guidance to assist in the implementation of, and compliance with the Nicaragua (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020, as those Regulations have effect in the Isle of Man.

The policy of the Isle of Man Government is to maintain the implementation of international sanctions measures in the Isle of Man in line with such measures have effect in the United Kingdom from time to time.

Legislation

The Nicaragua (Sanctions) EU Exit) Regulations 2020 have effect in the Isle of Man by the Nicaragua Sanctions (Application) Regulations 2020 [[SD 2020/0449](#)] (“the Regulations”).

This document contains guidance on the prohibitions and requirements imposed by the Regulations. In addition it provides guidance on best practice from complying with the prohibitions and requirements; the enforcement of them; and circumstances where they do not apply.

Further guidance

This document should be read alongside the [Financial Sanctions guidance](#).

Contact details for enquiries

Enquiries concerning this Notice may be made by –

- Email customs@gov.im
- Telephone 01624 648109

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1. Prohibitions and requirements imposed by the Regulations

These Regulations impose financial and immigration sanctions for the purpose of encouraging the government of Nicaragua to respect democratic principles and institutions, refrain from actions, policies and activities which repress civil society and comply with international human rights law and to respect human rights.

In order to achieve their stated purposes, the Regulations impose a number of prohibitions and requirements in order to enforce these, the Regulations establish penalties and offences. These are set out in detail in the Annex.

The sanctions imposed by these Regulations apply within the territory of the Isle of Man (IOM) and in relation to the conducts of all Island persons wherever they are in the world. Island person includes –

- (a) a British citizen, a British overseas territories citizen, a British National (Overseas) or a British overseas citizen who is resident in the Isle of Man;
- (b) a person who under the British Nationality Act 1981 (of Parliament)¹ is a British subject who is resident in the Isle of Man;
- (c) a British protected person within the meaning of that Act who is resident in the Isle of Man; or
- (d) a body incorporated under the law of the Isle of Man;

It is prohibited to intentionally participate in any activities if you know that the object or effect of them is to circumvent the sanctions imposed by these Regulations or to enable or facilitate the contravention of those prohibitions.

If you are unclear about any aspects of the Regulations, in particular about whether actions you are considering taking could contravene these Regulations you are advised to seek independent legal advice.

Prohibitions and requirements for the financial and immigration sanctions contained in these Regulations are set out below.

1.1 Designation of persons

Where the UK Secretary of State has designated a person, that designation also has effect in the Isle of Man from the same time, and any variation or revocation of the designation will also have effect in the Island. The reasons for designation include, for example, to promote respect for democratic principles and institutions, encourage compliance with international human rights law and respect for human rights.

When these Regulations are in force a list of those persons designated under these Regulations and details of the sanctions in respect of which they have been designated, will be on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

¹ 1981 Chapter 61.

1.2 Financial sanctions

Asset Freeze

The Regulations impose financial sanctions through a targeted asset freeze on designated persons. This involves the freezing of funds and economic resources (non-monetary assets, such as property or vehicles) of designated persons and ensuring that funds and economic resources are not made available to or for the benefit of designated persons or entities, either directly or indirectly.

More information on asset freezes can be found in the [Financial Sanctions guidance](#).

1.3 Immigration Sanctions

The effect of the Regulations is to impose a travel ban on persons who are designated by the UK Secretary of State. Such persons are excluded persons for the purposes of section 8B of the Immigration Act 1971 (as that Act has effect in the Isle of Man).

This means that those individuals will be refused leave to enter or remain in the UK/IOM. Any applications they make for a visa to travel to the UK/IOM, including for transit purposes, will be refused. A foreign national who is subject to a travel ban under the Regulations, and is currently in the UK/IOM, will have their permission to stay in the UK/IOM cancelled and steps will be taken to remove them.

If you are the subject of an immigration sanction and try to travel to the UK/IOM, carriers are required to deny you boarding.

1.4 Information and Record Keeping

Part 6 of the Regulations places obligations on relevant firms (the definition of which is set out in the Regulations) to report information to the Treasury about known or suspected designated persons or about persons who may have committed an offence under specified provisions of the Regulations. The Treasury has designated the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) as the body to whom reports should be made, via THEMIS.

It also grants powers to the Treasury to request information from, amongst others, a designated person, including powers to request the production of documents. It also establishes offences for failing to comply with these requests (including providing false information in respect of licences).

If you have obligations or responsibilities under Part 6 of these Regulations, it is important that you familiarise yourself with them. If you are unclear of your obligations or responsibilities, you are advised to seek independent legal advice.

2. How will these sanctions measures be enforced?

The Regulations make it a criminal offence to contravene the trade and financial sanctions, as well as to enable or facilitate a contravention of, or to circumvent, any of the prohibitions in the Regulations. They also set out the penalties that apply to such offences.

In addition to the below, further details on offences and penalties can be found in the Annex.

2.1 Financial Sanctions

Breaches of financial sanctions are a serious criminal offence. Any breach of the main financial prohibitions in the Regulations carries a maximum sentence of 7 years' imprisonment or a fine (or both).

Committing an offence under regulations 23(6) or 27(1) (information offences in connection with financial sanctions under the Regulations) carries a maximum sentence of 6 months' imprisonment or a fine (or both).

The Treasury is responsible for monitoring compliance with financial sanctions and investigating suspected breaches.

The Treasury works with other parts of government, supervisory bodies and regulators to consider all cases reported to it, sharing relevant information accordingly.

If you find out that a person or organisation you are dealing with is subject to the financial sanctions detailed in the Regulations, you must immediately:

- stop dealing with them
- freeze any assets you're holding for them
- inform the FIU as soon as possible.

More detailed information on the Treasury's approach to compliance and enforcement can be found in the [Financial Sanctions Guidance](#).

3. Are there circumstances when I can get an authorisation or licence for a sanctioned activity?

Licensing and exception provisions are contained in Part 5 of the Regulations.

3.1 Exceptions

The Regulations set out the exceptions to some of the sanctions prohibitions which apply within certain defined circumstances. An exception applies automatically, and does not require you to obtain a licence.

The Regulations establish exceptions relating to financial sanctions including for the crediting of a frozen account, providing that any such interest or other earnings are frozen in accordance with the relevant legislation underpinning the asset freeze. An exception also exists for when funds are transferred to a relevant institution for crediting to an account held or controlled by a designated person in discharge (or partial discharge) of an obligation which arose before the recipient became a designated person.

Regulation 20 establishes an exception to regulations 11 to 15 which provides that prohibitions are not contravened if conduct is authorised by a licence which is issued under the law of the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands, or any British Overseas Territory for the purpose of disapplying a prohibition in that jurisdiction which corresponds to the relevant prohibition.

The Regulations also include an exception in relation to any prohibition or requirement imposed by these Regulations for acts done for the purposes of national security or prevention of serious crime.

These exceptions do not apply to all prohibitions. If you are unsure whether an exception applies in your circumstances, you are advised to seek independent legal advice.

3.2. Licensing for financial sanctions

Where a person has been designated for the purposes of financial sanctions and had their assets frozen, the designated person or a representative may apply for a licence from the Treasury in order to be able to utilise their funds or economic resources (non-monetary assets, such as property or vehicles). Schedule 2 to the Regulations sets out the purposes pursuant to which, or for which activities, the Treasury may grant an individual licence. In summary these are:

- basic needs
- reasonable legal fees or reasonable expenses associated with the provision of legal services
- reasonable fees for the routine holding or maintenance of frozen funds and economic resources
- extraordinary expenses
- pre-existing judicial decisions etc.
- prior obligations
- diplomatic missions
- extraordinary situations
- humanitarian assistance activities

Further information can be found in the [Financial Sanctions Guidance](#)

3.3 Directions in respect of immigration sanctions

If you are subject to immigration sanctions the Home Office may direct, on a case by case basis, that the sanction does not apply in particular circumstances, such as for travel to, or through, the UK/IOM for a UN sponsored meeting.

4. Further information

To receive an email alerting you to any changes to the consolidated list of financial sanctions targets, you can subscribe to the Customs & Excise [News feed](#)

Annex A

Table of financial sanctions offences

Type of Sanctions offences	Specific offence	Relevant prohibition or requirement	Maximum penalty
Breach of sanctions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dealing with funds or economic resources owned, held or controlled by a designated person 2. Making funds available directly or indirectly to a designated person 3. Making funds available for the benefit of a designated person 4. Making economic resources available directly or indirectly to a designated person 5. Making economic resources available for benefit of a designated person 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. reg. 11 2. reg. 12 3. reg. 13 4. reg. 14 5. reg. 15 	Liable on summary conviction - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to custody for a term not exceeding 12 months, or to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale, or to both. Liable on conviction on information - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to custody for a term not exceeding 7 years or to a fine, or to both.
Circumvention etc. of prohibitions	Circumventing directly or indirectly the prohibitions of regs. 11-15 (Part 3 Finance) or enabling the contravention of prohibitions.	reg. 16	
Breach of requirements under Treasury licences	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Knowingly or recklessly providing false information or providing a document that is not what it purports to be for the purpose of obtaining a Treasury licence 2. Failing to comply with the conditions of a Treasury licence 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. reg. 21 2. reg. 21 	
Breach of reporting obligations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Failure to inform the Treasury about knowledge or reasonable cause to suspect that a person is a designated person or has committed an offence under Part 3 of the Regulations 2. Failure to provide the Treasury with information on which the knowledge or suspicion is based or information by which the person can be identified. 3. Failure to provide the Treasury with information 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. reg. 23 2. reg. 23 3. reg. 23 	Liable on summary conviction - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to custody for a term not exceeding 12 months, or to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale, or to both.

	about any funds or economic resources it holds for a designated person at the time when it first had knowledge or suspicion.		
Failure to comply with requests for information	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Failure to provide information in the time and manner requested under reg. 25 2. Knowingly and recklessly providing false information in respect of information requested under reg. 25 3. Evasion of requests made under reg. 25 or reg. 26. 4. Obstruction of Treasury requests for information made under reg. 25 or reg. 26. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. reg. 27 2. reg. 27 3. reg. 27 4. reg. 27 	
Breach of confidential information provision	Disclosure of information specified by the Secretary of State as confidential, where knowledge or reasonable cause to suspect that the information is to be treated as confidential	reg. 9	<p>Liable on summary conviction -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to custody for a term not exceeding 12 months, or to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale, or to both. <p>Liable on conviction on information -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to custody for a term not exceeding 2 years or to a fine, or to both.