

travel to, in, or through a country or area despite such restriction if the individual's travel is determined to fall within one of several categories established by the regulation 22 CFR 51.64. Without the requisite validation, use of a U.S. passport for travel to, in, or through a restricted country or area may justify revocation of the passport for misuse under 22 CFR 51.62(a)(3) and subject the traveler to felony prosecution under 18 U.S.C. 1544 for misuse of a passport or other applicable laws.

The categories of persons specified in 22 CFR 51.64(b) as being eligible for consideration for passport validation are as follows:

(a) An applicant who is a professional reporter and journalist whose trip is for the purpose of collecting and making available to the public information about the restricted country or area;

(b) An applicant who is a representative of the American Red Cross or the International Committee of the Red Cross on an officially sponsored Red Cross mission;

(c) An applicant whose trip to the restricted country or area is justified by compelling humanitarian considerations; or

(d) An applicant whose trip to the restricted country or area is otherwise in the national interest.

The information collection solicits data necessary for the Passport Services Directorate to determine whether an applicant is eligible to receive a special validation in his or her U.S. passport book permitting the applicant to make single or multiple round-trips to a restricted country or area, subject to additional requirements. The information requested consists of the applicant's name; a copy of the front and back of the applicant's valid government-issued photo identification card with the applicant's date of birth and signature; current contact information, including telephone number, email and mailing address; a statement explaining the reason that the applicant thinks their trip is in the national interest, including proposed travel dates and the applicant's role and responsibilities on the trip; and supporting documentary evidence, such as a letter from the organization being represented explaining in detail the purpose and intended work to be performed on the trip(s). For those seeking a multiple-entry special validation, applicants must also identify they are seeking the multiple-entry type of special validation and submit the following: Documentation showing the applicant or their organization has a well-established history of traveling to

the DPRK to work on well-monitored projects with compelling humanitarian considerations; the applicant's draft itinerary, including proposed dates of travel and the intended work to be performed on each trip; and documentation that shows the applicant's humanitarian work requires that they make multiple trips to the DPRK in the next 365-day period. Those who are approved for a multiple-entry special validation must also submit a final itinerary detailing dates and purpose of travel at least five (5) days prior to each trip to the DPRK while using their multi-entry special validation U.S. passport. Failure to provide the requested information may result in denial of a special validation to use a U.S. passport to travel to, in, or through a restricted country or area.

Effective September 1, 2017, upon determining that there is imminent danger to the public health or physical safety of U.S. travelers in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the Secretary of State imposed a passport restriction with respect to travel to the DPRK. Such restriction was further renewed in 2018, 2019, and most recently in 2020 for one year, effective September 1, 2020. The estimated number of recipients represents the Department of State's estimate of the annual number of special validations requests individuals will submit who wish to use their U.S. passport to travel to the DPRK, based on the current number of requests following the implementation of the Secretary of State's passport restriction. At this time, there are no other countries or areas that are the subject of passport restrictions pursuant to 22 CFR 51.63.

Methodology

Instructions for individuals seeking to apply for a special validation to use a U.S. passport to travel to, in, or through a restricted country or area is posted on a web page maintained by the Department (travel.state.gov). The web page directs applicants to submit the requested information via email to PPTSpecialValidations@state.gov or by mail to Office of Adjudication, Passport Services, U.S. Department of State, 44132 Mercure Circle, P.O. Box 1227, Sterling, VA 20166-1227, ATTN: Special Validations.

Information collected in this manner will be used to facilitate the granting of special validations to U.S. nationals who are eligible. The primary purpose of soliciting the information is to establish whether an applicant is within one of the categories specified in the regulations of the Department of State codified at 22 CFR 51.64(b) and

therefore eligible to be issued a U.S. passport containing a special validation enabling him or her to make one or multiple entry round-trips to a restricted country or area, and to facilitate the application for a passport of such applicants.

Kevin E. Bryant,

*Deputy, Office of Directives Management,
Department of State.*

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice: 11291]

Notice of Department of State Sanctions Actions; Reimposing Certain Sanctions With Respect to Iran

SUMMARY: The Secretary of State has imposed sanctions on 6 entities and 8 individuals.

DATES: The Secretary of State's determination and selection of certain sanctions to be imposed upon the 6 entities and 8 individuals identified in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section was effective on October 29, 2020.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Taylor Ruggles, Director, Office of Economic Sanctions Policy and Implementation, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, Department of State, Washington, DC 20520, tel.: (202) 647 7677, email: RugglesTV@state.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to Section 3(a) of E.O. 13846, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the United States Trade Representative, and with the President of the Export-Import Bank, the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and other agencies and officials as appropriate, is authorized to impose on a person any of the sanctions described in section 4 or 5 of E.O. 13846 upon determining that the person met any criteria set forth in sections 3(a)(i)—3(a)(vi) of E.O. 13846.

The Secretary of State has determined, pursuant to Section 3(a)(ii) of E.O. 13846, that Arya Sasol Polymer Company, Binrin Limited, Bakhtar Commercial Company, Kavian Petrochemical Company, and Strait Shipbrokers PTE. LTD, have knowingly, on or after November 5, 2018, engaged in a significant transaction for the purchase, acquisition, sale, transport, or marketing of petroleum products from Iran.

Pursuant to Section 5(a) of E.O. 13846, the Secretary of State has

selected the following sanctions to be imposed upon Arya Sasol Polymer Company, Binrin Limited, Bakhtar Commercial Company, Kavian Petrochemical Company, and Strait Shipbrokers PTE. LTD:

- Prohibit any transactions in foreign exchange that are subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and in which the entities have any interest;
- Prohibit any transfers of credit or payments between financial institutions or by, through, or to any financial institution, to the extent that such transfers or payments are subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and involve any interest of the entities;
- Block all property and interests in property that are in the United States, that hereafter come within the United States, or that are or hereafter come within the possession or control of any United States person of the entities, and provide that such property and interests in property may not be transferred, paid, exported, withdrawn, or otherwise dealt in;
- Prohibit any United States person from investing in or purchasing significant amounts of equity or debt instruments of the entities;
- Restrict or prohibit imports of goods, technology, or services, directly or indirectly, into the United States from the entities; and
- Impose on the principal executive officer or officers, or persons performing similar functions and with similar authorities, of the entities the sanctions described in sections 5(a)(i)–5(a)(iv) and 5(a)(vi) of E.O. 13846, as selected by the Secretary of State.

Pursuant to Sections 4(e) and 5(a) of E.O. 13846, the Secretary of State has selected the following sanctions to be imposed upon Amir Hossein Bahreini, Lin Na Wei, Murtuza Mustafamunir Basrai, Hosein Firouzi Arani, and Ramezan Oladi, each of whom has been determined to be (i) a corporate officer or principal of the aforementioned entities and (ii) a principal executive officer of the aforementioned entities, or perform similar functions with similar authorities as a principal executive officer:

- Prohibit any transactions in foreign exchange that are subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and in which Amir Hossein Bahreini, Lin Na Wei, Murtuza Mustafamunir Basrai, Hosein Firouzi Arani, and Ramezan Oladi have any interest;
- Prohibit any transfers of credit or payments between financial institutions or by, through, or to any financial institution, to the extent that such transfers or payments are subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and

involve any interest of Amir Hossein Bahreini, Lin Na Wei, Murtuza Mustafamunir Basrai, Hosein Firouzi Arani, and Ramezan Oladi;

- Block all property and interests in property that are in the United States, that hereafter come within the United States, or that are or hereafter come within the possession or control of any United States person of Amir Hossein Bahreini, Lin Na Wei, Murtuza Mustafamunir Basrai, Hosein Firouzi Arani, and Ramezan Oladi; and provide that such property and interests in property may not be transferred, paid, exported, withdrawn, or otherwise dealt in; and
- Restrict or prohibit imports of goods, technology, or services, directly or indirectly, into the United States from Amir Hossein Bahreini, Lin Na Wei, Murtuza Mustafamunir Basrai, Hosein Firouzi Arani, and Ramezan Oladi.

Additionally, pursuant to Section 4(e) of E.O. 13846, the Secretary of State shall deny a visa to, and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall exclude from the United States, any alien that the Secretary of State determines is a corporate officer or principal of, or a shareholder with a controlling interest in, a sanctioned person subject to this action.

Peter D. Haas,

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, Department of State.

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. FD 36454]

Strasburg Rail Road Company— Continuance in Control Exemption— SRC Railway LLC

Strasburg Rail Road Company (SRC), a Class III rail carrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption pursuant to 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(2) to continue in control of SRC Railway LLC (Railway LLC), upon Railway LLC becoming a Class III rail carrier.¹ Railway LLC is a newly formed

¹ SRC states that, although the proposed transaction is wholly within a corporate family and would satisfy the criteria for an exemption under section 1180.2(d)(3), it submitted verified notices for acquisition authority and continuance in control authority given the decision in *Oregon International Port of Coos Bay—Intra-Corporate Family Transaction Exemption*, FD 36199 (STB served Oct. 26, 2018). This notice does not address the appropriateness of section 1180.2(d)(3) in this situation, as the notice satisfies the criteria for section 1180.2(d)(2).

noncarrier entity that is controlled by SRC.

This transaction is related to a concurrently filed verified notice of exemption in *SRC Railway LLC—Lease & Operation Exemption—Strasburg Rail Road Co.*, Docket No. FD 36453. In that proceeding, Railway LLC seeks an exemption to lease and operate approximately 4.25 miles of rail line known as the Strasburg Line in Lancaster County, Pa. (the Line).

The verified notice states that because the Line is solely owned by SRC, lease of the Line to Railway LLC does not constitute a connection within the corporate family. SRC further states that the transaction does not involve a Class I rail carrier. The proposed transaction is therefore exempt from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11323. See 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(2).

The earliest this transaction may be consummated is January 20, 2021, the effective date of the exemption (30 days after the verified notice was filed).

Under 49 U.S.C. 10502(g), the Board may not use its exemption authority to relieve a rail carrier of its statutory obligation to protect the interests of its employees. Section 11326(c), however, does not provide for labor protection for transactions under sections 11324 and 11325 that involve only Class III rail carriers. Accordingly, the Board may not impose labor protective conditions here because only Class III carriers are involved.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the effectiveness of the exemption. Petitions for stay must be filed no later than January 12, 2021.

All pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 36454 should be filed with the Surface Transportation Board via e-filing on the Board's website. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on SRC's representative, Bradon J. Smith, Fletcher & Sippel LLC, 29 North Wacker Drive, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60606–3208.

According to SRC, this action is categorically excluded from environmental review under 49 CFR 1105.6(c) and from historic preservation reporting requirements under 49 CFR 1105.8(b).

Board decisions and notices are available at www.stb.gov.

Decided: December 31, 2020.