

San Marcos, TX, San Marcos Muni, GPS RWY 12, Orig, CANCELLED
 Rhinelander, WI, Rhinelander-Oneida County, VOR RWY 9, Amdt 4D
 Rhinelander, WI, Rhinelander-Oneida County, VOR/DME RWY 27, Orig-E
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 Rhinelander, WI, Rhinelander-Oneida County, RNAV (GPS) RWY 33, Orig

[FR Doc. 04-2435 Filed 2-5-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Industry and Security

15 CFR Parts 730, 732, 734, 736, 740, 746, 748, 750 and 752

[Docket No. 031212313-3313-01]

RIN 0694-AC24

Revisions and Clarifications to the Export Administration Regulations

AGENCY: Bureau of Industry and Security, Commerce.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This rule amends the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) by making certain corrections and clarifications, including insertion of material inadvertently omitted from previous rules.

DATES: This rule is effective February 6, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sharron Cook, Office of Exporter Services, Bureau of Industry and Security, Telephone: (202) 482-2440.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This rule makes the following corrections and clarifications:

1. In part 730, paragraph 730.8(c) is revised to correctly state names of offices, addresses, phone and facsimile numbers, and, in Supplement No. 3 to Part 730 (Other Government Departments and Agencies with Export Control Responsibilities), the office title, description of items processed, phone number, and fax number of the Department of Energy is revised.

2. In paragraph 732.3(h)(2) (Steps regarding the ten general prohibitions), old terminology is removed, *i.e.*, OTS, STS, and SUD.

3. In Supplement Nos. 1 and 2 to part 732, the flowcharts entitled "Am I Subject to the EAR" and "Export Control Decision Tree" are replaced with simpler and easier to read versions.

4. In paragraph 734.1(a) (Introduction to the Scope of the EAR), a correction is made to clarify the meaning of the fifth sentence.

5. In paragraph 734.3(b)(4) (Items subject to the EAR), a correction is made by replacing the word "greater" with the word "less". This will clarify that foreign made items that have less than the *de minimis* U.S. content based on the principles described in § 734.4, are *not* subject to the EAR.

6. In paragraph 734.4(d) (*De minimis* U.S. content), the citation reference to paragraph (b) is replaced with the correct citation reference to paragraph (c).

7. In paragraph 736.2(b)(3)(i) (General Prohibition Three—Reexport and export from abroad of the foreign-produced direct product of U.S. technology and software), a phrase is added to clarify that exports, reexports, or exports from abroad of items subject to the scope of General Prohibition three to Cuba, Libya, or a destination in Country Group D:1 are permitted under the authority of a license or eligible License Exception.

8. In Part 740, language is added to the description of the scope of items eligible for License Exceptions GBS (740.4), CIV (740.5), TSR (740.6), to clarify that items eligible for these License Exceptions are those that *require a license* for national security reasons only.

9. In paragraph 740.9(a)(2)(viii)(3)(B) (Temporary Exports), the title and room number is corrected for the Office of Export Enforcement located in Room H4616.

10. In paragraph 740.12(b)(5)(iii), a citation is corrected.

11. In paragraph 740.13(a)(1) (Operation technology and software under TSU), a clarification is made by replacing the word "products" with the words "commodities or software".

12. In paragraphs 746.2(a)(1)(ii) (License Exceptions for Cuba) and 746.4(b)(2)(ii)(B) (Reexports to Libya), clarifying language is added to correctly describe the scope of operation technology and software eligible under License Exception TSU to Cuba and Libya. The word "products" is revised to read "commodities or software".

13. In paragraph 746.4(b)(2) (Reexports to Libya), two citations are corrected: "734.2(b)(2)" to read "734.3(a)(3)", and "734.2(b)(3)" to read "734.3(a)(4)".

14. In paragraph 746.4(c)(2)(vii)(A) (License Policy for Libya), a typographical error is fixed to correctly describe the capacity of the pumps to transport crude oil and natural gas that generally are subject to a denial policy. The phrase "equal to or larger than 3500

cubic meters per hour" now reads "equal to or larger than 350 cubic meters per hour".

15. In paragraph 746.7, Iran, the first sentence of the introductory paragraph is revised to update the authority references for the section.

16. In paragraph 748.2(a), a revision is made to correctly state names of offices, addresses, phone and facsimile numbers.

17. Section 750.7 is amended by revising paragraph (c)(1)(viii) to allow the exporter to revise the wording of the item description on a license (although not necessary for the purpose of conforming to an official revision in the CCL) without having to obtain a replacement license. This revision will not allow an actual change in the item to be shipped.

18. In paragraphs 752.3(a)(2) and (a)(3) (Eligible Items for export and reexport under the Special Comprehensive License) references to ECCNs were corrected. ECCNs 1E350 and 1E351 were removed from paragraph (a)(2). ECCNs 1E350 and 1E351 were added to paragraph (a)(3).

19. Supplement No. 3 to part 774, "Cross-Reference", is removed because it is no longer necessary and has become confusing since the implementation of Wassenaar revisions to the Commerce Control List.

Although the Export Administration Act expired on August 20, 2001, Executive Order 13222 of August 17, 2001 (66 FR 44025, August 22, 2001), as extended by the notice of August 7, 2003, (68 FR 47833, August 11, 2003), continues the Regulations in effect under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

Rulemaking Requirements

1. This final rule has been determined to be not significant for purposes of E.O. 12866.

2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information, subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) (PRA), unless that collection of information displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control Number. This rule involves a collection of information subject to the PRA. This collection has been approved by OMB under control number 0694-0088, "Multi-Purpose Application," which carries a burden hour estimate of 58 minutes for a manual or electronic submission. Send comments regarding these burden estimates or any other aspect of these

collections of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to OMB Desk Officer, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503; and to the Office of Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, 14th and Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Room 6883, Washington, DC 20230.

3. This rule does not contain policies with Federalism implications as that term is defined under E.O. 13132.

4. The provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553) requiring notice of proposed rulemaking, the opportunity for public participation, and a delay in effective date, are inapplicable because this regulation involves a military and foreign affairs function of the United States (5 U.S.C. 553(a)(1)). Further, no other law requires that a notice of proposed rulemaking and an opportunity for public comment be given for this interim rule. Because a notice of proposed rulemaking and an opportunity for public comment are not required to be given for this rule under the Administrative Procedure Act or by any other law, the analytical requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) are not applicable. Therefore, this regulation is issued in final form. Although there is no formal comment period, public comments on this regulation are welcome on a continuing basis. Comments should be submitted to Sharron Cook, Office of Exporter Services, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 273, Washington, DC 20044.

List of Subjects

15 CFR Part 730

Administrative practice and procedure, Advisory committees, Exports, Foreign trade, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Strategic and critical materials.

15 CFR Parts 732, 740, 748, 750, and 752

Administrative practice and procedure, Exports, Foreign trade, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

15 CFR Part 734

Administrative practice and procedure, Exports, Foreign trade.

15 CFR Parts 736 and 774

Exports, Foreign Trade.

15 CFR Part 746

Embargoes, Exports, Foreign Trade, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Accordingly, parts 730, 732, 734, 736, 740, 746, 748, 750, 752, and 774 of the Export Administration Regulations (15 CFR Parts 730–799) are amended as follows:

PART 730—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for 15 CFR part 730 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 50 U.S.C. app. 2401 *et seq.*; 50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*; 10 U.S.C. 7420; 10 U.S.C. 7430(e); 18 U.S.C. 2510 *et seq.*; 22 U.S.C. 287c; 22 U.S.C. 3201 *et seq.*; 22 U.S.C. 6004; 30 U.S.C. 185(s), 185(u); 42 U.S.C. 2139a; 42 U.S.C. 6212; 43 U.S.C. 1354; 46 U.S.C. app. 466c; 50 U.S.C. app. 5; Sec. 901–911, Pub. L. 106–387; Sec. 221, Pub. L. 107–56; E.O. 11912, 41 FR 15825, 3 CFR, 1976 Comp., p. 114; E.O. 12002, 42 FR 35623, 3 CFR, 1977 Comp., p. 133; E.O. 12058, 43 FR 20947, 3 CFR, 1978 Comp., p. 179; E.O. 12214, 45 FR 29783, 3 CFR, 1980 Comp., p. 256; E.O. 12851, 58 FR 33181, 3 CFR, 1993 Comp., p. 608; E.O. 12854, 58 FR 36587, 3 CFR, 1993 Comp., p. 179; E.O. 12918, 59 FR 28205, 3 CFR, 1994 Comp., p. 899; E.O. 783; E.O. 13224, 66 FR 49079, 3 CFR, 2001 Comp., p. 786; Notice of August 7, 2003, 68 FR 47833, August 11, 2003; Notice of October 29, 2003, 68 FR 62209, October 31, 2003.

2. Section 730.8(c) is amended by revising the phrase “Santa Clara Branch Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, 5201 Great America Parkway, Suite 333, Santa Clara, California 95054, Telephone number: (408) 748–7450, Facsimile number: (408) 748–7470” to read “U.S. Export Assistance Center, Bureau of Industry and Security, 152 North Third Street, Suite 550, San Jose, California 95112–5591, Telephone number: (408) 998–7402, Facsimile number: (408) 998–7470”

3. In part 730, Supplement No. 3 is amended by revising the Government Agency, address, and phone/fax

numbers under “Nuclear Technology; Technical Data for Nuclear Weapons/Special Nuclear Materials” to read as follows:

Supplement No. 3 to PART 730—
OTHER U.S. GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES WITH
EXPORT CONTROL
RESPONSIBILITIES

* * * * *

Nuclear Technologies and Services Which Contribute to the Production of Special Nuclear Material (Snm). Technologies Covered Include Nuclear Reactors, Enrichment, Reprocessing, Fuel Fabrication, and Heavy Water Production.

Department of Energy Office of Export Control Policy & Cooperation (NA–24)
Tel. (202) 586–2331, Fax (202) 586–1348, 10 CFR part 810

* * * * *

PART 732—[AMENDED]

4. The authority citation for 15 CFR part 732 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 50 U.S.C. app. 2401 *et seq.*; 50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*; E.O. 13026, 61 FR 58767, 3 CFR, 1996 Comp., p. 228; E.O. 13222, 66 FR 44025, 3 CFR, 2001 Comp., p. 783; Notice of August 7, 2003, 68 FR 47833, August 11, 2003.

5. Section 732.3 is amended by revising paragraph (h)(2), to read as follows:

§ 732.3 Steps regarding the ten general prohibitions.

* * * * *

(h) * * *

(2) Under License Exception TSU (§ 740.13 of the EAR), operation technology and software, sales technology, and software updates overcome General Prohibition Five (End-Use and End-User) (§ 736.2(b)(5) of the EAR) if all terms and conditions of these provisions are met by the exporter or reexporter.

* * * * *

6. Supplement Nos. 1 and 2 to part 732 are revised to read as follows:

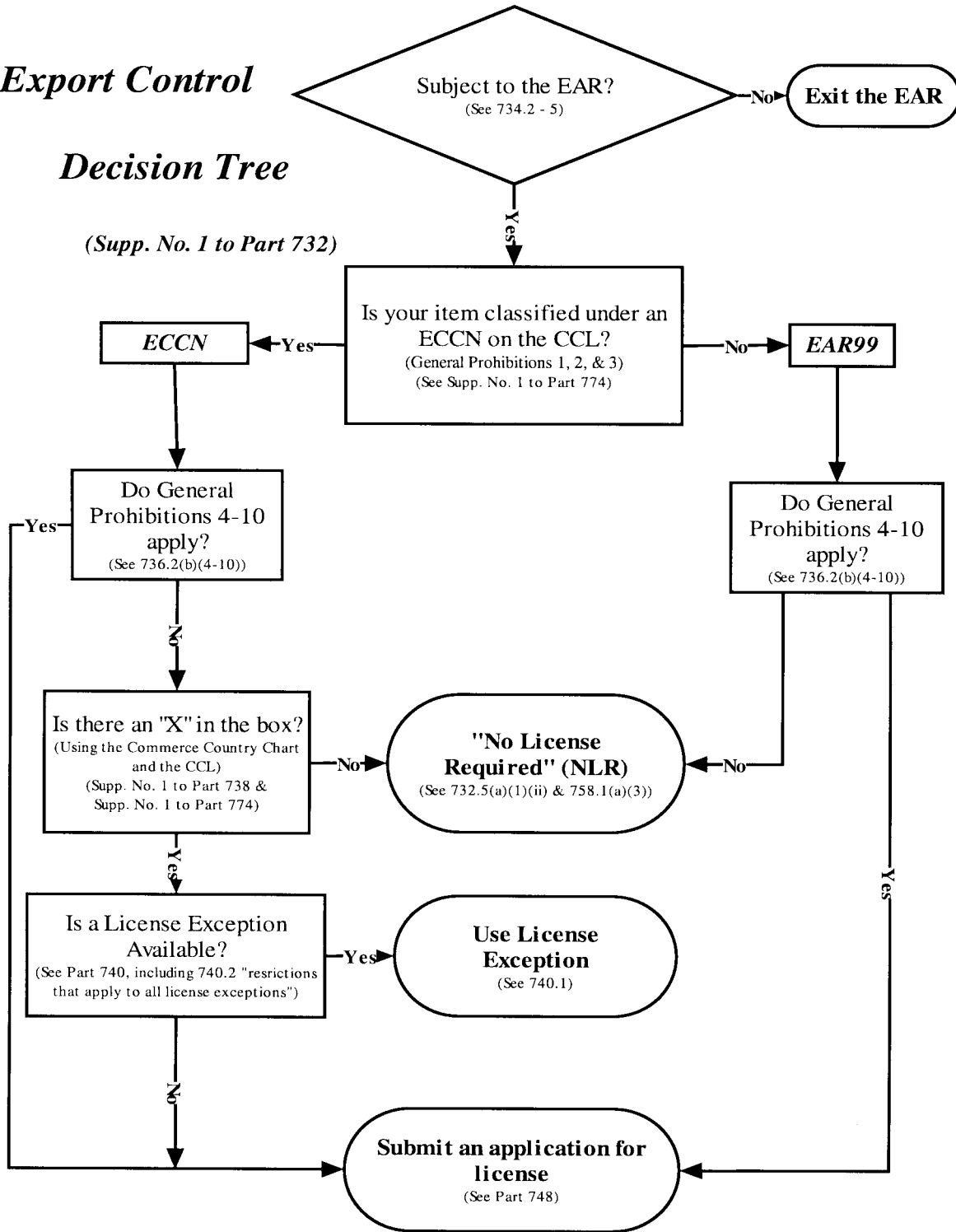
BILLING CODE 3510–33–P

SUPPLEMENT NO. 1 TO PART 732 - EXPORT CONTROL DECISION TREE

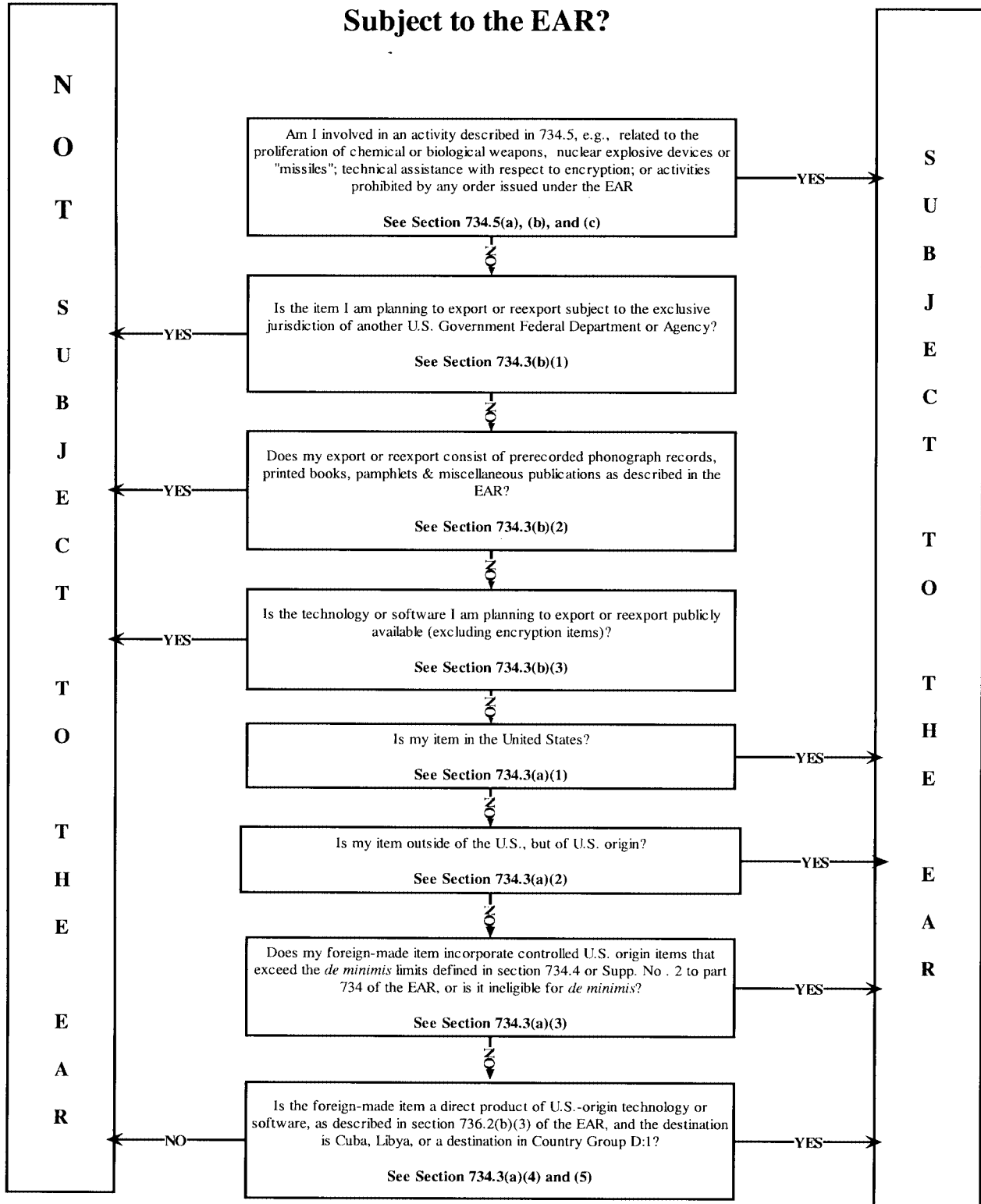
Export Control

Decision Tree

(Supp. No. 1 to Part 732)



SUPPLEMENT NO. 2 TO PART 732 - AM I SUBJECT TO THE EAR



PART 734—[AMENDED]

7. The authority citation for 15 CFR part 734 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 50 U.S.C. app. 2401 *et seq.*; 50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*; E.O. 12938, 59 FR 59099, 3 CFR, 1994 Comp., p. 950; E.O. 13020, 61 FR 54079, 3 CFR, 1996 Comp., p. 219; E.O. 13026, 61 FR 58767, 3 CFR, 1996 Comp., p. 228; E.O. 13222, 66 FR 44025, 3 CFR, 2001 Comp., p. 783; Notice of August 7, 2003, 68 FR 47833, August 11, 2003; Notice of October 29, 2003, 68 FR 62209, October 31, 2003.

8. Section 734.1 is amended by revising the phrase “If your item or activity is not subject to the EAR,” to read “If neither your item nor your activity is subject to the EAR,” in the fifth sentence of paragraph (a).

9. Section 734.3 is amended by revising the phrase “Foreign made items that have greater than the *de minimis* U.S. content based on the principles described in § 734.4 of this part.” to read “Foreign made items that have less than the *de minimis* percentage of controlled U.S. content based on the principles described in § 734.4 of this part.” in paragraph (b)(4).

10. Section 734.4 is amended by revising the introductory text to paragraph (d), as follows:

§ 734.4 De minimis U.S. content.

* * * * *

(d) Except as provided in paragraph (a) and (b) of this section for certain computers and items controlled for EI reasons, for all other countries not included in paragraph (c) of this section the following reexports are *not* subject to the EAR:

* * * * *

PART 736—[AMENDED]

11. The authority citation for 15 CFR part 736 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 50 U.S.C. app. 2401 *et seq.*; 50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*; E.O. 12938, 59 FR 59099, 3 CFR, 1994 Comp., p. 950; E.O. 13020, 61 FR 54079, 3 CFR, 1996 Comp., p. 219; E.O. 13026, 61 FR 58767, 3 CFR, 1996 Comp., p. 228; E.O. 13222, 66 FR 44025, 3 CFR, 2001 Comp., p. 783; Notice of August 7, 2003, 68 FR 47833, August 11, 2003; Notice of October 29, 2003, 68 FR 62209, October 31, 2003.

12. Section 736.2 is amended by revising the phrase “You may not export, reexport, or export from abroad items subject to” to read “You may not, without a license or License Exception, reexport or export from abroad items subject to” in paragraph (b)(3)(i).

PART 740—[AMENDED]

13. The authority citation for 15 CFR part 740 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 50 U.S.C. app. 2401 *et seq.*; 50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*; Sec. 901–911, Pub. L. 106–387; E.O. 13026, 61 FR 58767, 3 CFR, 1996 Comp., p. 228; E.O. 13222, 66 FR 44025, 3 CFR, 2001 Comp., p. 783; Notice of August 7, 2003, 68 FR 47833, August 11, 2003.

14. Section 740.4 is amended by revising the phrase, “commodities controlled to the ultimate destination for national security reasons only and identified” to read “commodities where the Commerce Country Chart (Supplement No. 1 to part 738 of the EAR) indicates a license requirement to the ultimate destination for national security reasons only and identified”.

15. Section 740.5 is amended by revising the phrase, “reexports controlled to the ultimate destination” to read “reexports where the Commerce Country Chart (Supplement No. 1 to part 738 of the EAR) indicates a license requirement to the ultimate destination” in the first sentence.

16. Section 740.6 is amended by revising the phrase “software controlled to the ultimate destination” to read “software where the Commerce Country Chart (Supplement No. 1 to part 738 of the EAR) indicates a license requirement to the ultimate destination” in the first sentence of paragraph (a).

17. Section 740.9 is amended by revising the phrase “Office of Enforcement Support, Room H4069,” to read “Office of Export Enforcement, Room H4616,” in paragraph (a)(2)(viii)(B).

18. Section 740.12 is amended by revising the citation “746.2(a)(3)” to read “746.2(b)(1)” in paragraph (b)(5)(iii).

19. Section 740.13(a)(1) is amended by revising:

a. The phrase “repair of those products” to read “repair of those commodities or software”; and

b. The phrase “efficient use of the product.” to read “efficient use of the commodity or software.”

PART 746—[AMENDED]

20. The authority citation for 15 CFR part 746 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 50 U.S.C. app. 2401 *et seq.*; 50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*; 22 U.S.C. 287c; 22 U.S.C. 6004; Sec. 901–911, Pub. L. 106–387; Sec. 221, Pub. L. 107–56; E.O. 12854, 58 FR 36587, 3 CFR 1993 Comp., p. 614; E.O. 12918, 59 FR 28205, 3 CFR, 1994 Comp., p. 899; E.O. 13222, 3 CFR, 2001 Comp., p. 783; Notice of August 7, 2003, 68 FR 47833, August 11, 2003.

21. Part 746 is amended by revising:

a. The phrase “legally exported commodities” to read “legally exported commodities or software” in the following two sections: 746.2(a)(1)(ii), and 746.4(b)(2)(ii)(B).

b. The citation “§ 734.2(b)(2)” to read “§ 734.3(a)(3)” and the citation “§ 734.2(b)(3)” to read “§ 734.3(a)(4)” in section 746.4(b)(2);

c. The phrase “larger than 3500 cubic meters” to read “larger than 350 cubic meters” in section 746.4(c)(2)(vii)(A); and

d. The first sentence of the introductory paragraph to section 746.7 to read as follows:

§ 746.7 Iran.

The Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) administers a comprehensive trade and investment embargo against Iran under the authority, *inter alia*, of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act of 1977, as amended, section 505 of the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1985, and Executive Order 13059 of August 19, 1997, which consolidates the provisions of Executive Orders 12613, 12957 and 12959. * * *

* * * * *

PART 748—[AMENDED]

22. The authority citation for 15 CFR part 748 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 50 U.S.C. app. 2401 *et seq.*; 50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*; E.O. 13026, 61 FR 58767, 3 CFR, 1996 Comp., p. 228; E.O. 13222, 66 FR 44025, 3 CFR, 2001 Comp., p. 783; Notice of August 7, 2003, 68 FR 47833, August 11, 2003.

23. Section 748.2 is amended by revising the undesignated paragraph following paragraph (a) to read as follows:

§ 748.2 Obtaining forms; mailing addresses.

(a) * * *

Outreach and Exporter Services Division

U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Room H1099D, Washington, DC 20230, Telephone Number: (202) 482–4811, Facsimile Number: (202) 482–3617.

Western Regional Offices

U.S. Department of Commerce, 3300 Irvine Avenue, Suite 345, Newport Beach, CA 92660, Telephone Number: (949) 660–0144, Facsimile Number: (949) 660–9347.

U.S. Export Assistance Center

Bureau of Industry and Security, 152 North Third Street, Suite 550, San Jose, California 95112–5591, Telephone Number: (408) 998–7402, Facsimile Number: (408) 998–7470.

* * * * *

PART 750—[AMENDED]

24. The authority citation for 15 CFR part 750 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 50 U.S.C. app. 2401 *et seq.*; 50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*; E.O. 13026, 61 FR 58767, 3 CFR, 1996 Comp., p. 228; E.O. 13222, 66 FR 44025, 3 CFR, 2001 Comp., p. 783; Notice of August 7, 2003, 68 FR 47833, August 11, 2003.

25. Section 750.7 is amended by revising paragraph (c)(1)(viii) to read as follows:

§ 750.7 Issuance of licenses.

* * * * *

(c) * * *

(1) * * *

(viii) Change in ECCN, unit of quantity, or unit price, where necessary only for the purpose of conforming to an official revision in the CCL; or wording of the item description. This does not cover an actual change in the item to be shipped, or an increase in the total price or quantity on the license; or

* * * * *

PART 752—[AMENDED]

26. The authority citation for 15 CFR part 752 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 50 U.S.C. app. 2401 *et seq.*; 50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*; E.O. 13020, 61 FR 54079, 3 CFR, 1996 Comp., p. 219; E.O. 13222, 66 FR 44025, 3 CFR, 2001 Comp., p. 783; Notice of August 7, 2003, 68 FR 47833, August 11, 2003.

27. Section 752.3 is amended by revising paragraphs (a)(2) and (a)(3) to read as follows:

§ 752.3 Eligible items.

(a) * * *

(2) Items controlled by ECCNs 1C351, 1C352, 1C353, 1C354, 1C991, 1E001, 2B352, 2E001, 2E002, and 2E301 on the CCL controlled for CB reasons;

(3) Items controlled by ECCNs 1C350, 1C995, 1D390, 1E350, 1E351, 2B350, and 2B351 on the CCL that can be used in the production of chemical weapons precursors and chemical warfare agents, to destinations listed in Country Group D:3 (*see* Supplement No. 1 to part 740 of the EAR);

* * * * *

Dated: January 13, 2004.

Peter Lichtenbaum,

Assistant Secretary for Export Administration.

[FR Doc. 04-1737 Filed 2-5-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-33-P

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION**20 CFR Part 404**

RIN 0960-AF82

Interrelationship of Old-Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance Program With the Railroad Retirement Program

AGENCY: Social Security Administration (SSA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: We are issuing these final rules to conform our regulations to a self-implementing provision in current law that affects benefit coordination between the Railroad Retirement Act and title II of the Social Security Act. The amendments modified a Railroad Retirement Act requirement involving the period of service in the railroad industry needed to satisfy certain annuity eligibility requirements. We refer to that requirement herein as the “vesting requirement.” For affected persons, this provision established a Railroad Retirement Act vesting requirement of 5 or more years of service, all of which accrue after December 31, 1995, as an alternative to the existing vesting requirement of 10 years of service. As a result of this provision, certain railroad workers who meet the alternative 5-year vesting requirement, and other affected persons, will now receive benefits under the Railroad Retirement Act rather than under title II of the Social Security Act. The amendments made by this provision were effective on or after January 1, 2002, for all individuals in the affected categories. Railroad retirement benefits payable on the basis of this provision are not retroactive and are not payable for months prior to January 2002, but are payable beginning January 1, 2002, to those with 5 years of service after 1995. Railroad employees previously denied benefits for insufficient service would have to file a new application for railroad benefits in order to be considered under the new vesting rules.

DATES: These regulations are effective February 6, 2004.

Electronic Version: The electronic file of this document is available on the date of publication in the **Federal Register** on the Internet site for the Government Printing Office, <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>. It is also available on the Internet site for SSA (*i.e.*, Social Security Online) at <http://policy.ssa.gov/pnpublic.nsf/LawsRegs>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marylin Buster, Social Insurance

Specialist, Office of Income Security Programs, Social Security Administration, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235-6401, (410) 965-2490 or TTY (410) 966-5609. For information on eligibility, claiming benefits, or coverage of earnings, call our national toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213 or TTY 1-800-325-0778.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

The Railroad Retirement Act provides a system of benefits for railroad employees, their dependents and survivors. It is integrated with the Social Security Act to provide a coordinated system of retirement, survivor, dependent, and disability benefits payable on the basis of an individual's work in the railroad industry and in employment and self-employment covered by the Social Security Act.

The Railroad Retirement Act distinguishes between “career” railroad workers and individuals who may be considered “casual” railroad workers by vesting people who have specified amounts of railroad work. For a vested worker, railroad compensation generally remains under the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) and is used to compute railroad retirement and survivor annuities for the worker. For a non-vested worker, railroad compensation is transferred from RRB to SSA and is combined with any social security covered wages and self-employment to determine the worker's eligibility for and the amount of title II benefits. Section 103 of Pub. L. 107-90, the Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act of 2001, modified the rules involving the period of railroad industry service needed in order to satisfy certain annuity eligibility requirements under section 2 of the Railroad Retirement Act. It affects individuals who have attained retirement age as defined in the Social Security Act. It also affects individuals who have attained age sixty-two and have completed less than 30 years of railroad service, and individuals whose permanent physical or mental condition is such that they are unable to engage in any regular employment. The new vesting requirement similarly affects the eligibility and entitlement of spouses of individuals who performed railroad service. Finally, the amendments affect the eligibility and entitlement of survivors; *i.e.*, widows, children, and parents of deceased individuals who performed railroad service.

Under the new amendments, the vesting requirement for affected individuals is either 10 years of railroad service or, for individuals with less than