

The Bottom Line

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UAE ENDS BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL

Summary

The Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) on June 8 amended the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) to reflect the formal end by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) last year of its participation in the Arab League Boycott of Israel.

The UAE Israeli Boycott Repeal Law follows the announcement of the historic peace agreement between the UAE and Israel on 13 August 2020, issued jointly by H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The UAE Israeli Boycott Repeal Law, which was published August 27, 2020 (but circulated publicly by the UAE Ministry of Justice on September 15, 2020 – the date of the signing of the UAE-Israel Abraham Accords), has a specific effective legal start date of August 16, 2020. The UAE Israeli Boycott Repeal Law allows individuals and companies in the UAE to now enter into agreements with Israeli firms, citizens and residents as part of commercial or financial operations or dealings. It is now permissible to enter, exchange or possess Israeli goods and products of all kinds and trade in them in the UAE, which was previously prohibited under the UAE Israeli Boycott Law.

On April 8, 2021, Treasury removed the UAE from its list published in the Federal Register of countries that require or may require cooperation with an unsanctioned international boycott, and on April 22, 2021, State certified to Congress that the UAE had formally ended its participation in the Arab League Boycott of Israel. On June 7, 2021, the Bureau of Industry and Security at the Department of Commerce announced that it has amended its antiboycott provisions set forth in the EAR to reflect the August 16, 2020 issuance by the UAE of Federal Decree-Law No. 4 of 2020, which formally ended the UAE's participation in the Arab League Boycott of Israel. BIS's action follows similar actions by the Departments of State and the Treasury.

Impact

BIS's amendment to the antiboycott provisions set forth in Part 760 of the EAR adds an interpretation that certain requests for information, action or agreement from the UAE, which were presumed to be boycott-related prior to August 16, 2020, the date of issuance of the UAE decree terminating participation in the Arab League Boycott of Israel, would not be presumed to be boycott-related if issued after August 16, 2020. US Companies thus would not be subject to the prohibitions or reporting requirements of Part 760 of the EAR, nor subject to civil and/or criminal penalty.

RESOURCES

[Export Administration Regulations: Termination of United Arab Emirates Participation in the Arab League Boycott of Israel \(Federal Register\)](#)

[The UAE-Israel Abraham Accords – UAE Boycott of Israel Repealed \(Baker-Mckenzie\)](#)

[Department of Commerce Recognizes the United Arab Emirates' Termination of Participation in the Arab League Boycott of Israel \(Department of Commerce\)](#)

Current Status

On 29 August 2020, the United Arab Emirates publicly announced that H.H. Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, issued Federal Decree Law No. 4 of 2020 (the UAE Israeli Boycott Repeal Law), abolishing Federal Decree Law No. 15 of 1972 Concerning the Arab League Boycott of Israel (the UAE Israeli Boycott Law).