

Iran

Specification Restrictive measures in relation to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

Acronym WMD

Adopted by UN and EU

Program IRN

Last amendment date 29.09.2025

Notes Since 2006, the UN Security Council adopted several resolutions requiring Iran to stop its nuclear proliferation activities. These resolutions were accompanied by restrictive measures (sanctions), which the EU also transposed. In addition, the EU reinforced the UN measures with various economic and financial sanctions.

On 14 July 2015 Iran and the ‘E3/EU3’ agreed on a Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPoA) (see guidelines for a link to the JCPoA Information Note for more information). Following the JCPoA, on Implementation Day (16 January 2016), the EU lifted all its nuclear-related economic and financial sanctions concerning Iran. Consequently, the following activities, including associated services, are again allowed as of Implementation Day: financial, banking and insurance measures; trade in the oil, gas and petrochemical sectors; activity in the shipping, shipbuilding and transport sectors. Moreover, several persons, entities and bodies were delisted and are therefore no longer subject to asset freezes, prohibitions to make funds available and visa bans. The JCPoA foresaw that in case 8 years after adoption day Iran had fulfilled its commitments, the EU would lift its sanctions. However, on Transition Day , (18 October 2023), considering Iran’s non-compliance with its JCPoA commitments, the Council decided to maintain the EU autonomous measures under the regime as well as maintain on the sanctions list the individuals and entities initially designated by the UN for involvement in nuclear or ballistic missiles activities or affiliated to the Islamic Revolutionary guard Corps (IRGC).

Thus, a number of measures and restrictions remain in place even after Transition Day. These concern inter alia the arms embargo, restrictive measures related to missile technology, restrictions on certain nuclear-related transfers and activities, and provisions concerning certain metals and software which are subject to an authorisation regime.

On 29 September 2025, following the UN Security Council’s decision not to extend the lifting of sanctions on Iran, the Council has decided to reinstate several restrictive measures against Iran, reversing the suspensions implemented under the JCPoA. The reinstated measures include UN sanctions from 2006, integrated into EU law, and additional EU autonomous measures.

In addition, the sanctions imposed by the EU in view of the human rights situation in Iran, support for terrorism and other grounds (e.g. the war in Syria, the Iran “drones” regime) are not part of the JCPoA and remain in place to this day.

Measures



Arms export

A prohibition to sell, supply, or transfer, directly or indirectly, or procure arms and related materiel of all types, including weapons and ammunition, military vehicles and equipment, paramilitary equipment and spare parts for such arms and related materiel; and the provision of associated services continues to apply after Implementation Day. The EU arms embargo covers all goods included in the EU common military list. The EU arms embargo stays in place until Transition Day



Arms procurement

It is prohibited to procure arms and related materiel from Iran.



Asset freeze and prohibition to make funds available

All assets of the persons and entities listed in Annexes VIII and IX of Council Regulation (EU) 267/2012 should be frozen. It is also prohibited to make any funds or assets directly or indirectly available to them. It is also prohibited to supply specialized financial messaging services, which are used to exchange financial data, to the listed persons and entities. The list of persons and entities concerned is included in the Financial Sanctions Database ([linked](#)).



Embargo on dual-use goods

The proliferation-sensitive transfers and activities concerning items on Annex II to Council Regulation 267/2012, including associated services and related investments are subject to prior authorisation by the competent authorities of the Member State.



Inspections

Member States shall inspect all cargo to and from Iran, if they have information that the cargo contains prohibited items. Upon discovery, Member States shall seize and dispose prohibited items.



Prohibition to satisfy claims

It is prohibited to satisfy claims made by the Iranian persons, entities or bodies; or persons listed in the Council Regulation (EU) No 267/2012, in connection with any contract or transaction the performance of which has been affected by the measures imposed by the same regulation.



Restrictions on admission

Member States shall enforce travel restrictions on persons who are also subject to the asset freeze.



Restrictions on goods

It is prohibited to sell, supply, transfer, export or procure items listed in Annex III to Council Regulation (EU) 267/2012 and any other item that the Member State determines that could contribute to the development of nuclear weapon delivery systems. The provision of associated services is also prohibited.



Restrictions on goods

Proliferation-sensitive transfers and activities concerning items listed under Annex I to Council Regulation 267/2012, including associated services and related investments are subject to prior authorisation by the competent authorities of the Member State. In some cases, the Member State will need to refer the matter to the UN Security Council.



Restrictions on goods

The sale, supply transfer or export of Enterprise Resource Planning software, designed specifically for use in nuclear and military industries, as described in Annex VIIA to Council Regulation 267/2012, and the provision of associated services is subject to prior authorisation to be granted by the competent authorities of the Member State.



Restrictions on goods

The sale, supply, transfer or export of certain graphite and raw or semi-finished metals as listed in Annex VIIB to Council Regulation 267/2012 and the provision of associated services is subject to prior authorisation to be granted by the competent authorities of the Member State.