

paragraphs (a) and (b) of this general license; or

(3) The unblocking of any property blocked pursuant to any part of 31 CFR chapter V, except as authorized by paragraphs (a) or (b).

Andrea Gacki,
Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control.

Dated: January 28, 2019.

Andrea M. Gacki,

Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Office of Foreign Assets Control

31 CFR Part 591

Publication of Venezuela Sanctions Regulations Web General Licenses 14, 15, and Subsequent Iterations

AGENCY: Office of Foreign Assets Control, Treasury.

ACTION: Publication of web general licenses.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) is publishing five general licenses (GLs) issued in the Venezuela Sanctions program: GLs 14, 15, 15A, 15B, and 15C, each of which was previously made available on OFAC's website.

DATES: GL 14 was issued on January 28, 2019. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for additional relevant dates.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: OFAC: Assistant Director for Licensing, 202-622-2480; Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, 202-622-4855; or Assistant Director for Sanctions Compliance & Evaluation, 202-622-2490.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Availability

This document and additional information concerning OFAC are available on OFAC's website: www.treas.gov/ofac.

Background

On January 28, 2019, OFAC issued GL 14 to authorize certain transactions otherwise prohibited by Executive Order (E.O.) 13692 of March 8, 2015, "Blocking Property and Suspending Entry of Certain Persons Contributing to the Situation in Venezuela" (80 FR 12747, March 11, 2015); E.O. 13808 of August 24, 2017, "Imposing Additional Sanctions With Respect to the Situation in Venezuela" (82 FR 41155, August 29,

2017); E.O. 13827 of March 19, 2018, "Taking Additional Steps to Address the Situation in Venezuela" (83 FR 12469, March 21, 2018); E.O. 13835 of May 21, 2018, "Prohibiting Certain Additional Transactions With Respect to Venezuela" (83 FR 24001, May 24, 2018); and E.O. 13850 of November 1, 2018, "Blocking Property of Additional Persons Contributing to the Situation in Venezuela" (83 FR 55243, November 2, 2018). On November 22, 2019, GL 14 was incorporated into the Venezuela Sanctions Regulations, 31 CFR part 591.

On March 22, 2019, OFAC issued GL 15 to authorize certain transactions otherwise prohibited by E.O. 13850. Subsequently, OFAC issued three further iterations of GL 15: on April 17, 2019, OFAC issued GL 15A, which superseded GL 15; on August 5, 2019, OFAC issued GL 15B, which superseded GL 15A and authorized certain transactions otherwise prohibited by E.O. 13884 of August 5, 2019, "Blocking Property of the Government of Venezuela" (84 FR 38843, August 7, 2019) as well as those prohibited by E.O. 13850; and on March 12, 2020, OFAC issued GL 15C, which superseded GL 15B.

Each GL was made available on OFAC's website (www.treas.gov/ofac) when it was issued. The text of these GLs is provided below.

OFFICE OF FOREIGN ASSETS CONTROL

Executive Order 13692 of March 8, 2015

Blocking Property and Suspending Entry of Certain Persons Contributing to the Situation in Venezuela

Executive Order 13808 of August 24, 2017

Imposing Additional Sanctions With Respect to the Situation in Venezuela

Executive Order 13827 of March 19, 2018

Taking Additional Steps To Address the Situation in Venezuela

Executive Order 13835 of May 21, 2018

Prohibiting Certain Additional Transactions With Respect to Venezuela

Executive Order 13850 of November 1, 2018

Blocking Property of Additional Persons Contributing to the Situation in Venezuela

GENERAL LICENSE 14

Official Business of the United States Government

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this general license, all transactions that are for the conduct of the official business of the United States Government by employees, grantees, or contractors thereof are authorized.

(b) This general license does not authorize any transaction that is prohibited by any part of 31 CFR chapter V other than part 591.

Andrea Gacki,

Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control.

Dated: January 28, 2019.

OFFICE OF FOREIGN ASSETS CONTROL

Executive Order 13850 of November 1, 2018

Blocking Property of Additional Persons Contributing to the Situation in Venezuela

GENERAL LICENSE NO. 15

Authorizing Transactions Involving Certain Banks Prohibited by Executive Order 13850 for Certain Entities

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this general license, all transactions and activities prohibited by Executive Order (E.O.) 13850, as amended by E.O. 13857 of January 25, 2019 ("Taking Additional Steps to Address the National Emergency With Respect to Venezuela"), that are ordinarily incident and necessary to the activities of the following entities, and

their subsidiaries, which involve Banco de Venezuela, S.A. Banco Universal (Banco de Venezuela) or Banco Bicentenario del Pueblo, de la Clase Obrera, Mujer y Comunas, Banco Universal C.A. (Banco Bicentenario del Pueblo) are authorized through 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time, March 22, 2020:

- MasterCard Incorporated
- Visa Inc.
- American Express Company
- Western Union Company
- MoneyGram International

(b) This general license does not authorize:

(1) Any transactions or dealings with Banco de Desarrollo Economico y Social de Venezuela (BANDES) or Banco Bandes Uruguay S.A. (Bandes Uruguay);

(2) The unblocking of any property blocked pursuant to E.O. 13850, as amended by E.O. 13857, or any part of 31 CFR chapter V, except as authorized by paragraph (a); or

(3) Any transaction that is otherwise prohibited under E.O. 13850 of November 1, 2018, E.O. 13835 of May 21, 2018, E.O. 13827 of March 19, 2018, E.O. 13808 of August 24, 2017, E.O. 13692 of March 8, 2015, each as amended by E.O. 13857, or any part of 31 CFR chapter V, or any transactions or dealings with any blocked person other than the blocked persons described in paragraph (a) of this general license.

Bradley T. Smith,
Deputy Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control.

Dated: March 22, 2019.

OFFICE OF FOREIGN ASSETS CONTROL

Executive Order 13850 of November 1, 2018

Blocking Property of Additional Persons Contributing to the Situation in Venezuela

GENERAL LICENSE NO. 15A

Authorizing Transactions Involving Certain Banks Prohibited by Executive Order 13850 for Certain Entities

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this general license, all transactions and activities prohibited by Executive Order (E.O.) 13850, as amended by E.O. 13857 of January 25, 2019 (“Taking Additional Steps to Address the National Emergency With Respect to Venezuela”) (E.O. 13850), that are ordinarily incident and necessary to the activities of the following entities, and their subsidiaries, which involve Banco de Venezuela, S.A. Banco Universal (Banco de Venezuela), Banco Bicentenario del Pueblo, de la Clase Obrera, Mujer y

Comunas, Banco Universal C.A. (Banco Bicentenario del Pueblo), or Banco Central de Venezuela are authorized through 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time, March 22, 2020:

- MasterCard Incorporated
- Visa Inc.
- American Express Company
- Western Union Company
- MoneyGram International

(b) This general license does not authorize:

(1) Any transactions or dealings with Banco de Desarrollo Economico y Social de Venezuela (BANDES) or Banco Bandes Uruguay S.A. (Bandes Uruguay);

(2) The unblocking of any property blocked pursuant to E.O. 13850 or any part of 31 CFR chapter V, except as authorized by paragraph (a); or

(3) Any transaction that is otherwise prohibited under E.O. 13850, E.O. 13835 of May 21, 2018, E.O. 13827 of March 19, 2018, E.O. 13808 of August 24, 2017, E.O. 13692 of March 8, 2015, each as amended by E.O. 13857, or any part of 31 CFR chapter V, or any transactions or dealings with any blocked person other than the blocked persons described in paragraph (a) of this general license.

(c) Effective April 17, 2019, General License No. 15, dated March 22, 2019, is replaced and superseded in its entirety by this General License No. 15A.

Andrea Gacki,
Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control.

Dated: April 17, 2019.

OFFICE OF FOREIGN ASSETS CONTROL

Executive Order 13850 of November 1, 2018

Blocking Property of Additional Persons Contributing to the Situation in Venezuela

Executive Order of August 5, 2019

Blocking Property of the Government of Venezuela

GENERAL LICENSE NO. 15B

Authorizing Transactions Involving Certain Banks for Certain Entities

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this general license, all transactions and activities prohibited by Executive Order (E.O.) 13850, as amended by E.O. 13857 of January 25, 2019, or E.O. of August 5, 2019, that are ordinarily incident and necessary to the activities of the following entities, and their subsidiaries, which involve Banco de Venezuela, S.A. Banco Universal (Banco de Venezuela), Banco Bicentenario del Pueblo, de la Clase Obrera, Mujer y Comunas, Banco Universal C.A. (Banco Bicentenario del

Pueblo), Banco del Tesoro, C.A. Banco Universal (Banco del Tesoro), or Banco Central de Venezuela are authorized through 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time, March 22, 2020:

- MasterCard Incorporated
- Visa Inc.
- American Express Company
- Western Union Company
- MoneyGram International

(b) This general license does not authorize:

(1) Any transactions or dealings with Banco de Desarrollo Economico y Social de Venezuela (BANDES) or Banco Bandes Uruguay S.A. (Bandes Uruguay);

(2) The unblocking of any property blocked pursuant to E.O. of August 5, 2019, or E.O. 13850, as amended, or any part of 31 CFR chapter V, except as authorized by paragraph (a); or

(3) Any transaction that is otherwise prohibited by E.O. of August 5, 2019, or E.O. 13850, E.O. 13835 of May 21, 2018, E.O. 13827 of March 19, 2018, E.O. 13808 of August 24, 2017, or E.O. 13692 of March 8, 2015, each as amended by E.O. 13857, or any part of 31 CFR chapter V, or any transactions or dealings with any blocked person other than the blocked persons identified in paragraph (a) of this general license.

(c) Effective August 5, 2019, General License No. 15A, dated April 17, 2019, is replaced and superseded in its entirety by this General License No. 15B.

Andrea Gacki,
Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control.

Dated: August 5, 2019.

OFFICE OF FOREIGN ASSETS CONTROL

Venezuela Sanctions Regulations

31 CFR Part 591

GENERAL LICENSE NO. 15C

Authorizing Transactions Involving Certain Banks for Certain Entities

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this general license, all transactions and activities prohibited by Executive Order (E.O.) 13850 of November 1, 2018, as amended by E.O. 13857 of January 25, 2019, or by E.O. 13884 of August 5, 2019, each as incorporated into the Venezuela Sanctions Regulations, 31 CFR part 591 (the VSR), that are ordinarily incident and necessary to the activities of the following entities, and their subsidiaries, which involve Banco de Venezuela, S.A. Banco Universal (Banco de Venezuela), Banco Bicentenario del Pueblo, de la Clase Obrera, Mujer y Comunas, Banco Universal C.A. (Banco Bicentenario del Pueblo), Banco del

Tesoro, C.A. Banco Universal (Banco del Tesoro), or Banco Central de Venezuela are authorized:

- MasterCard Incorporated
- Visa Inc.
- American Express Company
- Western Union Company
- MoneyGram International

(b) This general license does not authorize:

(1) Any transactions or activities with Banco de Desarrollo Economico y Social de Venezuela (BANDES) or Banco Bandes Uruguay S.A. (Bandes Uruguay);

(2) The unblocking of any property blocked pursuant to the VSR, or any other part of 31 CFR chapter V, except as authorized by paragraph (a); or

(3) Any transactions or activities otherwise prohibited by the VSR, or any other part of 31 CFR chapter V, or any transactions or activities with any blocked person other than the blocked persons identified in paragraph (a) of this general license.

(c) Effective March 12, 2020, General License No. 15B, dated August 5, 2019, is replaced and superseded in its entirety by this General License No. 15C.

Andrea Gacki,
Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control.

Dated: March 12, 2020.

Andrea M. Gacki,
Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control.

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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

U.S. Copyright Office

37 CFR Part 210

[Docket No. 2020-5]

Music Modernization Act Notices of License, Notices of Nonblanket Activity, Data Collection and Delivery Efforts, and Reports of Usage and Payment

AGENCY: U.S. Copyright Office, Library of Congress.

ACTION: Supplemental interim rule.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Copyright Office is issuing a supplemental interim rule relating to certain reporting and payment requirements of digital music providers and related duties of the mechanical licensing collective under the Music Modernization Act. The amendment extends a previously adopted transition period pending further rulemaking by the Office regarding reports of adjustment. Based

on the imminent expiration of the existing transition period and recent public comments requesting further proceedings on the subject of adjustments, the Office has determined that there is a legitimate need to make this amendment, effective immediately.

DATES: Effective February 1, 2023.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rhea Efthimiadis, Assistant to the General Counsel, by email at *mefi@copyright.gov* or telephone at 202-707-8350.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Orrin G. Hatch-Bob Goodlatte Music Modernization Act (the “MMA”) substantially modified the compulsory “mechanical” license for reproducing and distributing phonorecords of nondramatic musical works under 17 U.S.C. 115.¹ It did so by switching from a song-by-song licensing system to a blanket licensing regime that became available on January 1, 2021 (the “license availability date”),² administered by a mechanical licensing collective (the “MLC”) designated by the Copyright Office (the “Office”).³ Digital music providers (“DMPs”) are able to obtain this new mechanical blanket license (the “blanket license”) to make digital phonorecord deliveries of nondramatic musical works, including in the form of permanent downloads, limited downloads, or interactive streams (referred to in the statute as “covered activity” where such activity qualifies for a blanket license), subject to various requirements, including reporting obligations.⁴ DMPs also have the option to engage in these activities, in whole or in part, through voluntary licenses from copyright owners.

A. The Office’s September 2020 and May 2022 Rules

On September 17, 2020, as a part of its work to implement the MMA, the Office issued an interim rule adopting regulations concerning reporting requirements under the blanket license (the “September 2020 Rule”).⁵ As relevant here, those interim regulations included requirements governing annual reporting and the ability to make

adjustments to monthly and annual reports and related royalty payments, including to correct errors and replace estimated inputs with finally determined figures.⁶

After enactment of the September 2020 Rule, the Office received a request from the DLC to modify it, prompted by operational and compliance concerns. After carefully evaluating the DLC’s request and the then-existing rulemaking record, the Office decided to make various amendments through a supplemental interim rule and request for comments issued on May 24, 2022 (the “May 2022 Rule”).⁷ The May 2022 Rule provided extensive background on requirements relating to monthly reports of usage, annual reports of usage (“AROUs”), and reports of adjustment (“ROAs”), including with respect to timing, invoices, and response files.⁸ The Office assumes familiarity with both the September 2020 Rule and May 2022 Rule and their detailed explanations of these issues.⁹

In brief, and as relevant here, the May 2022 Rule established an invoice and response file process for ROAs (and by extension, AROUs that are combined with ROAs).¹⁰ Under these regulations, if there is an underpayment of royalties, the DMP must pay the difference to the MLC either contemporaneously with delivery of the ROA or promptly after receiving an invoice from the MLC.¹¹ In those circumstances where the DMP will receive a response file from the MLC, the MLC must deliver the invoice to the DMP contemporaneously with the response file.¹² The MLC must otherwise deliver the invoice to the DMP in a reasonably timely manner.¹³ If requested by the DMP, the MLC must deliver a response file no later than 45 days after receiving the ROA, unless the ROA is combined with an AROU, in which case the response file must be

⁶ 37 CFR 210.27(f), (g)(3) and (4), (k).

⁷ 87 FR 31422, 31424–27 (May 24, 2022).

⁸ *Id.* at 31422–23.

⁹ To date, this proceeding has involved multiple rounds of public comments through a notification of inquiry, 84 FR 49966 (Sept. 24, 2019), a notice of proposed rulemaking, 85 FR 22518 (Apr. 22, 2020), and an *ex parte* communications process. In addition to the September 2020 Rule and May 2022 Rule, the Office has issued two other supplemental interim rules. 85 FR 84243 (Dec. 28, 2020); 86 FR 12822 (Mar. 5, 2021). Guidelines for *ex parte* communications, along with records of such communications, including those referenced herein, are available at <https://www.copyright.gov/rulemaking/mma-implementation/ex-parte-communications.html>. All MMA rulemaking activity, including public comments, can currently be accessed via navigation from <https://www.copyright.gov/music-modernization>.

¹⁰ 87 FR 31425–27.

¹¹ 37 CFR 210.27(k)(4).

¹² *Id.*

¹³ *Id.*

¹ Public Law 115–264, 132 Stat. 3676 (2018).

² 17 U.S.C. 115(e)(15).

³ As permitted under the MMA, the Office also designated a digital licensee coordinator (the “DLC”) to represent licensees in proceedings before the Copyright Royalty Judges (the “CRJs”) and the Office, to serve as a non-voting member of the MLC, and to carry out other functions. 84 FR 32274 (July 8, 2019).

⁴ 17 U.S.C. 115(d).

⁵ 85 FR 58114 (Sept. 17, 2020).