

§ 720.1 Denial of export privileges for convictions under 18 U.S.C. 229.

Any person in the United States or any U.S. national may be denied export privileges after notice and opportunity for hearing if that person has been convicted under Title 18, Section 229 of the United States Code of knowingly:

(a) Developing, producing, otherwise acquiring, transferring directly or indirectly, receiving, stockpiling, retaining, owning, possessing, or using, or threatening to use, a chemical weapon; or

(b) Assisting or inducing, in any way, any person to violate paragraph (a) of this section, or attempting or conspiring to violate paragraph (a) of this section.

§ 720.2 Initiation of administrative action denying export privileges.

(a) *Notice.* BIS will notify any person convicted of Section 229, Title 18, United States Code, of BIS's intent to deny that person's export privileges. The notification letter shall reference the person's conviction, specify the number of years for which BIS intends to deny export privileges, set forth the statutory and regulatory authority for the action, state whether the denial order will be standard or non-standard pursuant to Supplement No. 1 to Part 764 of the Export Administration Regulations (15 CFR parts 730 through 799), and provide that the person may request a hearing before the Administrative Law Judge within 30 days from the date of the notification letter.

(b) *Waiver.* The failure of the notified person to file a request for a hearing within the time provided constitutes a waiver of the person's right to contest the denial of export privileges that BIS intends to impose.

(c) *order of Assistant Secretary.* If no hearing is requested, the Assistant Secretary for Export Enforcement will order that export privileges be denied as indicated in the notification letter.

§ 720.3 Final decision on administrative action denying export privileges.

(a) *Hearing.* Any hearing that is granted by the ALJ shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures set forth in § 719.14 of this subchapter.

(b) *Initial decision and order.* After considering the entire record in the proceeding, the ALJ will issue an initial decision and order, based on a preponderance of the evidence. The ALJ may consider factors such as the seriousness of the criminal offense that is the basis for conviction, the nature and duration of the criminal sanctions imposed, and whether the person has undertaken any corrective measures. The ALJ may dismiss the proceeding if the evidence is insufficient to sustain a denial of export privileges, or may issue an order imposing a denial of export privileges for the length of time the ALJ deems appropriate. An order denying export privileges may be standard or non-standard, as provided in Supplement No. 1 to part 764 of the Export Administration Regulations (15 CFR parts 730 through 799). The initial decision and order will be served on each party, and will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER as the final decision of the Department of Commerce 30 days after service, unless an appeal is filed in accordance with paragraph (c) of this section.

(c) *Grounds for appeal.* (1) A party may, within 30 days of the ALJ's initial decision and order, petition the Under Secretary for Export Administration for review of the initial decision and order. A petition for review must be filed with the Office of Under Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230, and shall be served on the Office of Chief Counsel for Industry and Security or on the respondent. Petitions for review may be filed only on one or more of the following grounds:

(i) That a necessary finding of fact is omitted, erroneous or unsupported by substantial evidence of record;

(ii) That a necessary legal conclusion or finding is contrary to law;

(iii) That prejudicial procedural error occurred; or

(iv) That the decision or the extent of sanctions is arbitrary, capricious or an abuse of discretion.

(2) The appeal must specify the grounds on which the appeal is based and the provisions of the order from which the appeal was taken.