

§515.571

31 CFR Ch. V (7-1-08 Edition)

limited to nongovernmental organizations and individuals, to independent non-governmental entities in Cuba, including but not limited to pro-democracy groups, civil society groups, and religious organizations, and to members of such groups or organizations.

(1) Remittances by persons subject to U.S. jurisdiction to independent non-governmental entities in Cuba.

(2) Remittances by persons subject to U.S. jurisdiction from blocked accounts to Cuban households in third countries in excess of the amount specified in paragraph (a) of this section; or

(3) Remittances by persons subject to U.S. jurisdiction to a person in Cuba, directly or indirectly, for transactions to facilitate non-immigrant travel by an individual in Cuba to the United States under circumstances where humanitarian need is demonstrated, including but not limited to illness or other medical emergency.

NOTE TO §515.570: For the rules relating to the carrying of remittances to Cuba, see paragraph (c)(4) of §515.560. Persons subject to U.S. jurisdiction are prohibited from engaging in the collection or forwarding of remittances to Cuba unless authorized pursuant to §515.572. For a list of authorized U.S. remittance service providers, see the following Web site: http://www.treas.gov/offices/eotfjc/ofac/sanctions/cuba_tsp.pdf.

[68 FR 14147, Mar. 24, 2003, as amended at 69 FR 33773, June 16, 2004]

§515.571 Certain transactions incident to travel to, from, and within the United States by Cuban nationals.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, the following transactions by or on behalf of a Cuban national who enters the United States on a non-immigrant visa or other non-immigrant travel authorization issued by the State Department are authorized:

(1) All transactions ordinarily incident to travel between the United States and Cuba, including the importation into the United States of accompanied baggage for personal use;

(2) All transactions ordinarily incident to travel and maintenance within the United States, including the payment of living expenses and the acquisition of goods for personal consumption in the United States;

(3) All transactions on behalf of aircraft or vessels incident to non-sched-

uled flights or voyages between the United States and Cuba, provided that the carrier used has a carrier service provider license issued pursuant to §515.572. This paragraph does not authorize the carriage of any merchandise into the United States except accompanied baggage; and

(4) Normal banking transactions involving foreign currency drafts, travelers' checks, or other instruments negotiated incident to travel in the United States by any person under the authority of this section.

(5) All transactions ordinarily incident to the activities for which a visa or other travel authorization was issued.

(i) This paragraph (a)(5) does not authorize receipt of compensation in excess of amounts covering living expenses and the acquisition of goods for personal consumption. See §515.565(a)(5) of this part for the case-by-case authorization of payments to certain Cuban scholars of stipends or salaries that exceed this limit.

(ii) Examples of transactions authorized by this paragraph (a)(5) include: the payment of tuition to a U.S. educational institution by a national of Cuba issued a student visa; the payment of compensation covering only living expenses and the purchase of goods for personal consumption to a national of Cuba issued a performance-related visa; and the rental of a stage by a Cuban group issued a performance visa.

(b) Payments and transfers of credit in the United States from blocked accounts in domestic banking institutions held in the name of a Cuban national who enters the United States on a visa or other travel authorization issued by the State Department to or upon the order of such Cuban national are authorized provided that:

(1) Such payments and transfers of credit are made only for the living, traveling, and similar personal expenses in the United States of such Cuban national or his or her family;

(2) The total of all such payments and transfers of credit made under this section from the accounts of such Cuban national do not exceed \$250 in any one calendar month; and

(3) No payment or transfer is made from a blocked account in which a specially designated national has an interest.

(c) This section does not authorize any transfer of property to Cuba, or, except as otherwise authorized in paragraph (b) of this section, any debit to a blocked account.

NOTE TO § 515.571: For the authorization of certain transactions by Cuba nationals who become U.S. citizens, apply for or receive U.S. permanent resident alien status, or are paroled into the United States, see § 515.505 of this part.

[64 FR 25819, May 13, 1999, as amended at 68 FR 14148, Mar. 24, 2003; 69 FR 33773, June 16, 2004]

§ 515.572 Authorization of transactions incident to the provision of travel services, carrier services, and remittance forwarding services.

(a)(1) *Authorization of travel service provider.* The following persons wishing to provide services in connection with travel to Cuba are “travel service providers” for purposes of this part: Travel agents, ticket agents, commercial and noncommercial organizations that arrange travel to Cuba; tour operators; persons arranging through transportation to Cuba; persons chartering an aircraft or vessel on behalf of others in Cuba; and persons arranging hotel accommodations, ground transportation, local tours, and similar travel activities on behalf of others in Cuba. Travel service providers must obtain authorization from the Office of Foreign Assets Control before providing services with respect to travel to Cuba. The list stated above should not be considered exhaustive, as other persons may be “travel service providers” within the meaning of this part. Opinions may be obtained from the Office of Foreign Assets Control concerning the applicability of this licensing requirement in individual cases.

(2) *Authorization of carrier service provider.* Persons subject to U.S. jurisdiction wishing to provide carrier services by aircraft or vessels incidental to their non-scheduled flights or voyages to, from, or within Cuba are “carrier service providers” for purposes of this part. Carrier service providers must obtain authorization from the Office of

Foreign Assets Control before providing services with respect to non-scheduled flights or voyages to, from, or within Cuba. Carriage to or from Cuba of any merchandise, cargo or gifts, other than those permitted to individual travelers as accompanied baggage, must also be authorized by licenses issued by the U.S. Department of Commerce.

(3) *Authorization of remittance forwarders.* Persons subject to U.S. jurisdiction, including persons who provide remittance forwarding services and noncommercial organizations acting on behalf of donors, who wish to provide services in connection with the collection or forwarding of remittances authorized pursuant to this part must obtain a license from the Office of Foreign Assets Control. Depository institutions, as defined in § 515.533, must obtain a license pursuant to this section only for the provision of services in connection with the collection and forwarding of remittances authorized pursuant to paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of § 515.570. Depository institutions do not need a license pursuant to this section to provide such services with respect to any other remittances authorized pursuant to this part.

(b) *Terms and conditions of authorization to engage in service transactions.* Authorization to engage in service transactions will be issued only upon the applicant’s written affirmation and subsequent demonstration that it does not participate in discriminatory practices of the Cuban government against certain residents and citizens of the United States. Examples of such practices include, but are not limited to, charging discriminatory rates for air travel or requiring payment for services, such as hotel accommodations and meals, not desired, planned to be utilized, or actually utilized, based on such characteristics as race, color, religion, sex, citizenship, place of birth, or national origin. Authorization, whether a grant of provisional authorization or a license issued pursuant to this part, does not permit a travel or carrier service provider to provide services in connection with any individual’s transactions incident to travel which are prohibited by this part.