

Kalashnikov Among Russian Firms Under Threat of U.S. Sanctions

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Stanislav Krasilnikov / TASS

The iconic weapons maker Kalashnikov is among 39 Russian defense and intelligence sector companies that could face new U.S. [sanctions](#) in retaliation to claims of election interference and regional conflicts.

The sanctions bill that U.S. President Donald Trump signed into law in August sets a two-month deadline for him to [designate](#) targets.

U.S. lawmakers previously criticized the Trump administration for missing the Oct. 1 deadline for imposing penalties on Moscow in line with the new sanctions bill.

The State Department said this week it was working to identify entities linked to Russian defense and intelligence industries to issue the guidance of sanctions targets.

The New York Times obtained a copy of the list and published it on Thursday as State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said it was due to be released to the public soon.

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The list includes 33 Russian defense and six intelligence sector organizations, the Federal Security Service and Foreign Intelligence Service among them.

In addition to the already-[blacklisted](#) arms maker Kalashnikov Concern, the U.S. designation [includes](#) Russia's state arms exporter Rosoboronexport and massive state-owned defense conglomerate Rostec, which are also under U.S. sanctions.

American companies would be prohibited from doing "significant" business with companies on the list, beginning late January 2018.

Nauert explained the three-week delay with producing the list by saying it was the State Department's effort to help U.S. and allied firms avoid running afoul of the possible sanctions.

"Part of this is to say to the companies – and many of these are big multinational companies – put them on alert that these are the types of things that they can no longer do business with."

In anticipation of the potential sanctions, Russia is reportedly looking to designate a bank to exclusively service the country's defense industry by year-end, the Kommersant business daily [reported](#).

Shortly after the list was released, the Foreign Policy magazine cited congressional sources as saying that U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson had dissolved an office that oversees sanctions policy. A mid-level State Department manager is now reportedly in [charge](#) of coordinating U.S. sanctions.

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