

# U.S. Expands Russia Sanctions Over Navalny Poisoning

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The U.S. has expanded export restrictions to Russia. [selectusa.gov](https://selectusa.gov)

The United States has expanded its export restrictions to Russia as part of sanctions over the poisoning of jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny, the Commerce Department [announced](#) Wednesday.

The department said that, starting Thursday, its Bureau of Industry and Security will review Russia-bound national security items “under a presumption of denial for exports and re-exports.”

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“The Department of Commerce is committed to preventing Russia from accessing sensitive U.S. technologies that might be diverted to its malign chemical weapons activities,” it said in a statement.

The department also suspended the export of unrestricted software and technology, as well as servicing and replacement parts and equipment that had been exported to Russia.

It exempted a list of national security items from the export restrictions, including those in support of aviation and commercial space launches, until Sept. 1.

The latest restrictions follow President Joe Biden's [first Russia sanctions](#) since taking office in January earlier this month. In a Wednesday interview with ABC News, Biden said he agrees with the assessment that Russian President Vladimir Putin is a "[killer](#)" and that "you'll see shortly the price he's going to pay."

European scientists and the global chemical weapons watchdog determined that Navalny was poisoned with a new variant of Novichok when he fell ill in August 2020. The Kremlin has denied involvement and cast doubt on whether Navalny — who is serving two and a half years in jail after returning to Russia from recovery in Germany in January — was poisoned at all.

In its statement, the Commerce Department accused Russia of "directly put[ting] its own citizens and those of other countries at mortal risk" with the use of illegal nerve agents against dissidents.

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