

**§ 500.550 Transactions related to information and informational materials.**

(a) All financial and other transactions directly incident to the importation or exportation of information or informational materials as defined in § 500.332 of this part are authorized.

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5. The section heading and text of § 500.563 are revised to read as follows:

**§ 500.563 Transactions incident to travel to and within North Korea.**

(a) All transactions of persons subject to U.S. jurisdiction, including travel service providers, ordinarily incident to travel to, from, and within North Korea and to maintenance within North Korea are authorized. This authorization extends to transactions with North Korean carriers and those involving group tours, payment of living expenses, the acquisition of goods in North Korea for personal use, and normal banking transactions involving currency drafts, charge, debit or credit cards, traveler's checks, or other financial instruments negotiated incident to personal travel.

(b) The purchase of merchandise in North Korea by persons subject to U.S. jurisdiction, and importation as accompanied baggage, is limited to goods with a foreign market value not to exceed \$100 per person for personal use only. Such merchandise may not be resold. This authorization may be used only once in every six consecutive months. As provided in § 500.206 of this part, information and informational materials are exempt from this restriction.

(c) This section does not authorize any debit to a blocked account.

**§ 500.564 [Reserved]**

6. Section 500.564 is removed and reserved.

7. Paragraph (b) of § 500.566 is removed, paragraph (c) is redesignated as paragraph (b), and the section heading and the introductory text of paragraph (a) and paragraph (a)(1) are revised to read as follows:

**§ 500.566 Certain transactions authorized on behalf of North Korean nationals incident to their travel and maintenance expenses.**

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, the following transactions are authorized by or on behalf of a national of North Korea who enters the United States on a visa issued by the Department of State:

(1) All transactions ordinarily incident to travel to, from, and within the United States are authorized, including the importation into the

United States of accompanied baggage for personal use;

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**§ 500.569 [Reserved]**

8. Section 500.569 is removed and reserved.

**§ 500.571 [Amended]**

9. Section 500.571 is amended by removing the word "Vietnam" and adding the words "North Korea" wherever it appears.

10. Section 500.579 is amended by designating the current text as paragraph (a), and by adding the following paragraph (b) to the end of the section to read as follows:

**§ 500.579 Authorization for release of certain blocked transfers by banking institutions subject to U.S. jurisdiction.**

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(b) Specific licenses may be issued authorizing the return to the remitting party of funds that were blocked by banking institutions subject to the jurisdiction of the United States pursuant to this part because of an interest of North Korea or a national thereof and that came into the banking institution's possession or control by wire transfer or check remittance, provided that no funds are released to the Government of North Korea, any entity controlled by the Government of North Korea, or any person located in, controlled from, or organized under the laws of North Korea.

11. Section 500.580 is added to read as follows:

**§ 500.580 Authorization of U.S. dollar clearing transactions involving North Korea.**

Banking institutions organized under the laws of or located in the United States are authorized to process the transfer of funds in which North Korea or a national thereof has an interest. Persons subject to U.S. jurisdiction who are originators or ultimate beneficiaries of funds transfers, however, including U.S. banking institutions that are themselves originators or beneficiaries, may not initiate or receive such transfers if the underlying transactions to which they relate are prohibited pursuant to this part.

12. Section 500.581 is added to read as follows:

**§ 500.581 Financial transactions related to diplomatic missions authorized.**

All financial transactions related to activities of North Korean diplomatic missions in the United States and U.S. diplomatic missions in North Korea are authorized, with the exception of

transactions involving the North Korean mission to the United Nations in New York, which are subject to approval by specific license.

13. Section 500.582 is added to read as follows:

**§ 500.582 Importation of North Korean-origin magnesite and magnesia.**

Specific licenses may be issued authorizing the importation into the United States of North Korean-origin magnesite or magnesia.

14. Section 500.583 is added to read as follows:

**§ 500.583 News organization offices.**

(a) Specific licenses may be issued authorizing all transactions necessary for the establishment and operation of news bureaus in North Korea by U.S. organizations whose primary purpose is the gathering and dissemination of news to the general public.

(b) Transactions that will be authorized include but are not limited to those incident to the following:

- (1) leasing office space and securing related goods and services;
- (2) hiring North Korean nationals to serve as support staff;
- (3) purchasing North Korean-origin goods for use in the operation of the office; and

(4) paying fees related to the operation of the office in North Korea.

(c) Specific licenses may be issued authorizing transactions necessary for the establishment and operation of news bureaus in the United States by North Korean organizations whose primary purpose is the gathering and dissemination of news to the general public.

(d) The number assigned to a specific license issued pursuant to this section should be referenced in all import documents, and in all funds transfers and other banking transactions through banking institutions organized or located in the United States, in connection with the licensed transactions to avoid the blocking of goods imported from North Korea and the interruption of the financial transactions with North Korea.

15. Section 500.584 is added to read as follows:

**§ 500.584 Energy sector projects in North Korea.**

Specific licenses may be issued to permit persons subject to U.S. jurisdiction to participate in certain energy sector projects in North Korea in connection with that country's transition to light-water reactor ("LWR") power plants. Transactions that may be licensed include those related to LWR