

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 19/10/2025

The following Cabinet papers and related Cabinet minutes have been proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Title	Reference
<i>Report of the Cabinet Business Committee: Period Ended 5 September 2025</i>	CAB-25-MIN-0298
<i>Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulation (No 4) 2025</i>	CBC-25-MIN-0046
<i>Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulation (No 4) 2025</i>	

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the OIA that would apply have been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Key to OIA redaction codes:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government;
- 9(2)(g)(ii): to protect officers and employees from improper pressure or harassment; and
- 9(2)(h): to maintain legal professional privilege.



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Report of the Cabinet Business Committee: Period Ended 5 September 2025

On 8 September 2025, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Business Committee for the period ended 5 September 2025:

CBC-25-MIN-0046

**Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations
(No 4) 2025**
Portfolio: Foreign Affairs

CONFIRMED

s9(2)(g)(ii)

Secretary of the Cabinet



Cabinet Business Committee

Minute of Decision

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Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations (No 4) 2025

Portfolio Foreign Affairs

On 1 September 2025, the Cabinet Business Committee:

- 1 s6(a)
- 2 **noted** that in August 2025, the Minister of Foreign Affairs (the Minister) approved an application under section 13 of the Act made by Igor Viktorovich Makarov for the revocation of his designation, and agreed to recommend to the Governor-General that the regulations designating Igor Viktorovich Makarov be revoked;
- 3 **noted** that the Minister must decide an application for the revocation of regulations under section 13 of the Act in a way that is consistent with the purpose of the regulations providing for the sanction;
- 4 **noted** the advice of the Minister that the requirement in paragraph 3 above has been met;
- 5 **noted** that the Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations (No 4) 2025 (the Regulations) give effect to the decision in paragraph 2 above, and fall within the standing policy approval agreed in paragraph 1 above;
- 6 **noted** that, before recommending that regulations be made under the Act, the responsible Minister must be satisfied that:
 - 6.1 the regulations are appropriate to respond to threats to the sovereignty or territorial integrity of Ukraine or another country;
 - 6.2 the United Nations Security Council is unlikely to act or has acted insufficiently;
- 7 **noted** the advice of the Minister that the requirements in paragraph 6 above have been met;
- 8 **authorised** the submission to the Executive Council of the Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations (No 4) 2025 [PCO 28203/9.0];

9 **noted** that the Regulations will come into force on 12 September 2025.

s9(2)(g)(ii)

Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon (Chair)
Hon David Seymour
Hon Chris Bishop
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Erica Stanford
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon Mark Mitchell

Officials present from:

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Proactively Released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs
Chair, Cabinet Legislation Committee

Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations (No 4) 2025

Proposal

- 1 This paper seeks authorisation for submission to the Executive Council of the Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations (No 4) 2025 (the Regulations).

Policy

- 2 The Minister of Foreign Affairs is the Responsible Minister under the Russia Sanctions Act 2022 (the Act), and therefore has discretion to decide whether to recommend that sanctions regulations be made under the Act.
- 3 s6(a)
- 4 The regulations will:
 - 4.1 lower the oil price cap that applies to dealing with specified maritime services¹ in relation to the maritime transport of Russian-origin crude oil;
 - 4.2 designate individuals, entities and ships that have supported Russia's invasion of Ukraine;
 - 4.3 apply the full suite of prohibitions to the designated individuals and entities;
 - 4.4 prohibit the designated ships from entering a New Zealand port;
 - 4.5 prohibit the provision of specified maritime services² in relation to the designated ships, irrespective of the price of the oil they are carrying;
 - 4.6 revoke the designation of Igor Viktorovich Makarov, following the Minister's consideration of an application for revocation under section 13 of the Act (the Application); and,
 - 4.7 implement other minor technical regulatory amendments as necessary.³

¹ Brokering, financing, financial assistance, or insurance services.

² Brokering, financing, financial assistance, or insurance services.

³ These technical amendments relate to the wording of existing prohibitions, the classification of HS codes and correcting spelling of names in two previous designations.

Timing and 28-day rule

5 s6(a)

Compliance

- 6 The regulations are in line with the intent and purpose of the Act, and comply with each of the following:
- 6.1 the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi;
 - 6.2 the rights and freedoms contained in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 or the Human Rights Act 1993;
 - 6.3 the principles and guidelines set out in the Privacy Act 2020;
 - 6.4 relevant international standards and obligations;
 - 6.5 the Legislation Guidelines (2021 edition), which are maintained by the Legislation Design and Advisory Committee.
- 7 Section 8 of the Act sets out a threshold which the responsible Minister must be satisfied has been met before recommending that an Order in Council be made with regard to sanctions under section 9 of the Act. The Section 8 threshold is that: (i) the regulations are appropriate to respond to threats to the sovereignty or territorial integrity of Ukraine or another country; and (ii) the United Nations Security Council is unlikely to act or has acted insufficiently.
- 8 The Minister is satisfied that the threshold for recommending sanctions in section 8 has been met for the Regulations, as identified in Annex 1 of the submission to the Minister of 13 August 2025, entitled *Russia Sanctions: Tranche 32*.
- 9 Section 13(1)(a) of the Act states that any person may apply to the Minister, on the basis of humanitarian need or for any other reason, to request that the Minister recommend the amendment or revocation of a regulation made under section 9 of the Act. Section 13(3) states that the Minister must decide the application in a way that is consistent with the purpose of the regulations providing for the sanction.
- 10 For the revocation of sanctions on Igor Viktorovich Makarov, the Minister is further satisfied that, as set out in the submission entitled *Russia Sanctions Act: Application for revocation of sanctions by Igor Makarov*:
- 10.1 approving the application for revocation of sanctions under section 13 of the Act is consistent with the purpose of the regulations providing for the sanctions; and

- 10.2 the section 8 threshold has been met for the regulations revoking the designation.

Regulations Review Committee

- 11 There are no grounds for the Regulations Review Committee to draw the regulations to the attention of the House of Representatives under Standing Order 327.

Certification by Parliamentary Counsel

- 12 The draft regulations were certified by the Parliamentary Counsel Office (PCO) as being in order for submission to Cabinet.

Impact Analysis

- 13 s6(a)

Publicity

- 14 The Regulations will be publicised through a press release by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and an update to the New Zealand Sanctions Register (as required by section 14 of the Act). The Ministry will also email information to those who subscribe to its Russia Sanctions Updates service.

Proactive release

- 15 This paper will be released proactively with appropriate redactions within 30 business days of the decisions being confirmed by Cabinet. It is expected that the announcement will have been made within this period.

Consultation

- 16 The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has consulted the following agencies in developing the draft regulations: Parliamentary Counsel Office, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment, New Zealand Police, Ministry of Transport, Maritime New Zealand, Customs New Zealand, Immigration New Zealand, the Reserve Bank, the Financial Markets Authority, Ministry of Justice, The Treasury, Defence, and Land Information New Zealand.
- 17 The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, in partnership with the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment, consulted with fuel companies, major banks, insurance industry representatives and the legal sector on the proposal to lower the oil price cap.

Recommendations

The Minister of Foreign Affairs recommends that the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 s6(a)
- 2 note that on 12 August 2025, the Minister of Foreign Affairs approved an application under section 13 of the Russia Sanctions Act made by Igor Viktorovich Makarov for the revocation of his designation, and agreed to recommend to the Governor-General that the regulations designating Igor Viktorovich Makarov be revoked;
- 3 note that the Minister of Foreign Affairs must decide an application for the revocation of regulations under section 13 of the Act in a way that is consistent with the purpose of the regulations providing for the sanction;
- 4 note the advice of the Minister of Foreign Affairs that this requirement has been met;
- 5 note that the Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations (No 4) 2025 will give effect to the decisions referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 above;
- 6 note that, before recommending that regulations be made under the Act, the responsible Minister must be satisfied that: (i) the regulations are appropriate to respond to threats to the sovereignty or territorial integrity of Ukraine or another country; and (ii) the United Nations Security Council is unlikely to act or has acted insufficiently;
- 7 note the advice of the Minister of Foreign Affairs that this requirement has been met;
- 8 s6(a)
- 9 authorise the submission to the Executive Council of the Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations (No 4) 2025.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Minister for Foreign Affairs

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