



Report Highlights

Audit of the Bureau of Industry and Security's Enforcement of Russia and Belarus Export Controls

Audit Report OIG-26-019-A

May 4, 2026

➤ **What We Audited** | Our objective was to assess the actions taken by the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) to detect violations of export controls for Russia and Belarus in fiscal years 2022 and 2023.

➤ **Why This Matters** | BIS administers and enforces U.S. export regulations to control the export of goods and technologies for national security and foreign policy purposes.

In February 2022, BIS imposed strict export controls on commodities, software, and technologies that have dual military and civilian uses to Russia and Belarus. These controls aim to restrict the flow of critical goods and technologies that could support Russia's military capabilities and war effort.

➤ **What We Found** | BIS prevents the diversion or misuse of export-controlled items abroad by conducting pre-license checks and post-shipment verifications—collectively known as end-use checks—on foreign end users for individual export transactions, to help ensure that U.S. exports are being used as intended and to assess the legitimacy of end users.

Overall, we found that BIS needs to strengthen its end-use check process to identify and prevent restricted shipments to Russia and Belarus. Specifically, we found weaknesses in BIS methods to identify and select high-risk shipments for end-use checks; document results and assign final ratings of compliance with export control regulations; and complete enforcement actions to hold potential violators of export controls accountable. These weaknesses undermine the transparency and accountability of BIS's regulatory oversight and underscore the need for improvements to strengthen and modernize the end-use check process.

➤ **What We Recommend** | We made six recommendations to strengthen and modernize the end-use check process. BIS concurred with four of the six recommendations; regarding the other two, we consider recommendation 3 implemented and we ask BIS to reconsider its position on recommendation 6.