

Indonesia Recalibrates Export Controls and Advances Digital Licensing Reform



On 17 March 2026, Indonesia introduced two new Ministry of Trade regulations that update and streamline its export control framework. The changes took effect on 1 April 2026 and form part of a broader policy shift towards greater digitalisation and simplification of export procedures.

The amendments are introduced through Ministry of Trade Regulation No. 5 of 2026 and Ministry of Trade Regulation No. 6 of 2026, which respectively revise export licensing rules and update the list of goods subject to export prohibitions.

Overall, the reform reflects a continued move towards more automated and standardised export administration, while also tightening or recalibrating controls in selected sensitive sectors.

Key changes to export licensing

The new framework introduces a number of practical adjustments that primarily affect administrative processes. In particular, certain reporting obligations have been eased where simplified documentation is sufficient for customs clearance.

Exporters are also now able to withdraw pending export-related applications through the Indonesia National Single Window (INSW) before final approval, providing greater procedural flexibility. In addition, some legacy requirements linked to maintaining a constant track record of export transactions have been relaxed, reducing the risk of administrative consequences in cases of inactivity.

A further notable change is the introduction of clearer rules for re-export scenarios, in which goods meeting defined conditions may be exempt from standard export licensing requirements.

Sector-specific adjustments

Several industries are directly affected by targeted amendments.

In the metals sector, licensing requirements for certain tin-related products have been simplified through consolidation of categories and adjustments to technical specifications. In the oil and gas sector, export licensing requirements have been eased for most products, with limited exceptions remaining for pipeline-based natural gas exports.

In the coal sector, documentation requirements have been reduced, particularly in relation to previously required commercial cooperation agreements.

In agriculture, specific changes include updated validity rules for kratom export approvals, revised documentation requirements for swiftlet nests, and the reclassification of certain rice products, which are now eligible for export under licensing conditions.

Digitalisation of export procedures

A key element of the reform is the expansion of automated export approval processes through an integrated digital system connecting the Ministry of Trade platform with Indonesia's National Single Window infrastructure.

This system enables automatic approval for selected commodities, particularly in the fisheries and rice sectors, reducing the need for manual processing. The objective is to improve processing speed, increase transparency, and enhance overall administrative efficiency.

Export restrictions and transitional rules

Transitional provisions require exporters to review existing licences against the new framework, as certain authorisations remain valid only for limited periods while others must be replaced or restructured within defined timelines.

The updated framework also revises the list of goods subject to export prohibitions. While certain restrictions, particularly in relation to rice products, have been relaxed, other controls have been tightened for selected product categories, including specific tin-related products and certain wildlife species.

Conclusions

The reforms mark a gradual shift towards a more digital and standardised export regime in Indonesia. For businesses, the most relevant implications are procedural rather than structural, with a focus on adjusted licensing workflows, revised product classifications, and transitional compliance deadlines.

Exporters should review their current licence portfolio to ensure alignment with the new rules and avoid potential disruptions during the transition phase.

How we can help

Our Jakarta team continuously tracks regulatory developments in Indonesia's export regime and is well placed to advise on the practical implications of recent changes, including their impact on licensing frameworks, product classification, and overall compliance exposure.

We also support clients in navigating licences transition processes, coordinating with relevant authorities, and putting in place effective compliance measures to maintain uninterrupted export operations.

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