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Russia Temporarily Bans Georgian Drinks Including Coca-Cola

Rospotrebnadzor said wine, cognac, beer, soft drinks and mineral water failed safety checks, prompting retailers to pull them.

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Russia’s consumer safety watchdog has temporarily banned the import and sale of several alcoholic and nonalcoholic drinks made in Georgia, expanding restrictions that now affect wine, cognac, beer, soft drinks and mineral water, according to a document reviewed by RBC and people familiar with the matter.

Rospotrebnadzor, the federal agency that oversees consumer rights and public health protections, found that the affected products did not meet established requirements for organoleptic and physicochemical indicators, as well as safety standards, RBC reported. The outlet said the measure was introduced under a decision of the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission and applies to the import and circulation of the listed products in Russia.

The products named in the document include wine made by Teliani Veli, wine made by Tbilvino, wine and cognac made by Askaneli Brothers, wine made by Wineman, beer made by Georgian Beer Company, Coca-Cola produced in Georgia, and Nabeglavi mineral water made by Healthy Water. The restriction is described as a temporary sanitary measure.

RBC said it had obtained the document and that a source in Russia’s alcohol market confirmed the information. A person at one of the country’s largest retail chains also confirmed to the outlet that the letter had been received. The report did not include a public statement from Rospotrebnadzor explaining in detail which specific batches were affected or whether the agency had set conditions for the restrictions to be lifted.

The Association of Retail Companies, known by its Russian acronym AKORT, later confirmed to RBC that it had received the watchdog’s order. Stanislav Bogdanov, the association’s chairman, told the outlet that member chains had already begun removing the listed products from sale. He said product safety remains a priority for retailers and that chains were promptly carrying out the regulator’s decisions while continuing to monitor the situation.

Auchan also told RBC that it had received the notice from Rospotrebnadzor and had removed all of the specified products from sale in its stores. RBC said it sent requests for comment to Rospotrebnadzor, AKORT and major retailers including X5, Magnit, Lenta, Spar, Auchan and Metro.

The move adds to a series of recent restrictions by Russian authorities on imported beverages from the South Caucasus. In May, Rospotrebnadzor said it had found alcoholic products from Armenia in circulation that did not meet mandatory requirements and ordered a suspension of sales involving three Armenian producers:

Vedi-Alco, the Abovyan Brandy Factory and the wine and cognac house Shakhnazaryan. In April, the agency suspended the import and circulation of some batches of Armenia’s Jermuk mineral water, citing a health risk after elevated levels of bicarbonate ion, chlorides and sulfates were found.

The latest action is likely to be closely watched across the beverage trade because it reaches beyond wine into several major product categories sold through large Russian retail chains. For importers, distributors and store operators, the suspension could interrupt supply arrangements tied to the affected Georgian producers and force a review of contracts, inventories and replacement options. That pressure could be especially immediate for merchants with shelf space dedicated to imported wine, beer, spirits, soft drinks and bottled water.

The decision also touches brands with broad consumer recognition. Georgian wine has long had a presence in Russia, while Nabeglavi mineral water and Coca-Cola bottled in Georgia are sold in parts of the market alongside domestic and other imported alternatives. The removal of these items from store shelves, even on a temporary basis, may shift demand toward substitute products if the restrictions remain in place for an extended period.

RBC’s report did not say how much product was already in distribution when the order was issued or how large a share of Russian sales was tied to the affected companies. It also did not indicate whether the producers had challenged the findings or planned to seek a rapid return to the market after additional testing or corrective steps. For now, retailers that received the notice appear to be moving quickly to comply with the order as the authorities keep the restrictions in effect.