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Russian Lawmakers Seek Graphic Warnings on Alcohol Labels

The proposal would require prominent health notices and pictograms on wine, beer and spirits packaging

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Russian lawmakers have introduced amendments that would require stronger health warnings on alcohol labels, a move that could force wineries, brewers and spirits makers to redesign packaging if the proposal becomes law.

The draft, submitted to the State Duma and identified as bill No. 1143864-8, would amend Article 11 of Russia’s law on the regulation of alcohol production and turnover. It would require alcoholic beverages to carry prominent information about the dangers of

drinking and contraindications for certain groups of consumers on the label, back label or consumer packaging.

Under the proposal, the warning text would have to appear in capital letters, in a font as large as possible and cover at least 10% of the label. Lawmakers also want the warnings to be paired with pictograms showing illnesses or damaged organs linked to excessive alcohol use, in a format similar to graphic warnings used on cigarette packs.

The deputies behind the measure said alcohol consumption contributes to high mortality, illness, crime, injuries, traffic accidents and domestic violence. They also argued that alcohol abuse harms pregnancy and childbirth and worsens Russia’s demographic situation.

The proposal comes as Russian officials continue to frame alcohol policy as part of a broader public health and social policy effort. If adopted, the measure would likely require producers and importers to change labels across a wide range of products, including wine, beer and distilled spirits, adding compliance costs and creating new rules for how alcohol is presented to consumers.

The draft has been received by parliament but has not yet become law.