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Ukraine Bans Russian Foodstuffs in Apparent Tit-for-Tat

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Ukraine has banned sales of Russian chocolate, cheese and fish on its territory, the Ukrainian Liga.Biznes website reported Thursday.

According to the news portal, the Ukrainian regulatory body State Consumer Issues Inspection, or Gospotrebinspektsiya, has recently conducted an examination of different Russian foodstuffs and found irregularities in the way some products were labelled and sold. Seven Russian companies were included in the list of violators.

The list includes Russian confectionery factories Krasny Oktyabr, Babayevsky, Rot Front and Russky Shokolad, as well as cheese company Laktaris Istra and fish producers Vichunay Rus and Roskon.

The examination was initiated after Svoboda nationalist party leader Oleg Tyahnybok said that most of the Russian goods on the market of the country did not meet Ukrainian

regulations. Besides, he added that mass violations of consumer rights took place during their sales on the market. The products are being withdrawn from stores, the portal said.

The move is an apparent response to the ban imposed by the Russian consumer rights watchdog Rospotrebnadzor on confectionary products made by the Ukrainian company Roshen in July 2013.

Rospotrebnadzor claimed the chocolates contained increased amount of the carcinogen benzopyrene. The products manufactured in the Russian branch of the factory were not labeled as poisonous by the Russian watchdog.

In 2012 Russia banned imports of various Ukrainian dairy products.

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