

Russian Fined \$800 For Buying 'Spy' Cigarette Lighter From U.S.

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A resident of Vladivostok has been fined \$800 after purchasing a "spy" cigarette lighter through a U.S. online store, a news report said.

The man, who was not identified, ordered a cigarette lighter equipped with a tiny camera out of curiosity while browsing for a cell phone repair kit, local news site OTV reported Wednesday.

He was detained by a police officer upon receiving the package at the post office, the report said.

Avrora Rimskaya, a spokesperson for the regional Investigative Committee, said that only the security services had the right to use hidden cameras and audio equipment — and only in certain circumstances.

Hidden cameras also violate the right to privacy guaranteed by the Constitution, she was cited as saying by OTV.

After a half-hour trial, the man was found guilty of illegally acquiring the hidden camera and fined 50,000 rubles (\$800).

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<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2015/02/19/russian-fined-800-for-buying-spy-cigarette-lighter-from-us-a44077>