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Putin Signs Decree Ordering Destruction of Banned Food

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A worker arranges cheese for sale at a grocery store in St. Petersburg.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a decree ordering the "destruction" of any food or agricultural good shipments brought into the country against Russia's bans on Western food imports amid the crisis in Ukraine.

Shipments of banned food are to be destroyed starting on Aug. 6, according to the decree published by the Kremlin on Wednesday evening.

Food that private individuals might bring from a Western country "for personal use" will be exempt, the decree said.

But in any other cases, "agricultural goods, raw materials and food originating from a country that has made the decision to introduce economic sanctions against Russian entities and/or individuals, or has joined such a decision, and which are prohibited from being imported

into the Russian Federation ... are subject to destruction," the decree reads.

Russia imposed its ban on food imports in response to economic sanctions imposed on Moscow for its annexation of Crimea and meddling in eastern Ukraine.

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