

Volgograd Workers Raise Alarm Over Mass Layoffs

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Sergey Nikolayev / TASS

Workers at the Red October factory in the southern Russian city of Volgograd have raised the alarm over mass layoffs and salary delays in the run-up to this summer's FIFA World Cup.

Special laws passed for the World Cup stipulate that factories that pose a potential safety risk in host cities be temporarily shut down for the duration of the tournament.

The Red October factory produces steel for the T-14 Armata tank, Russia's first new main battle tank since the fall of the Soviet Union.

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"The current situation at the enterprise is catastrophic and may lead to a total shutdown," the factory's union wrote in a letter addressed to President Vladimir Putin, according to a copy of the letter [carried](#) by the RBC business portal.

As many as 3,000 workers have been temporarily laid off because of the new measures, RBC reported.

The factory workers plan to stage a protest in Volgograd on June 18, the day of the first World Cup match scheduled in the city, between England and Tunisia.

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