

Putin Signs Law Clamping Down on Distribution of Foreign Print Media

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President Vladimir Putin has signed a law on Monday that introduces fines for the unauthorized production or distribution of foreign print media.

Russia has clamped down on the presence of foreign media in recent years. Since 2016, foreigners have been barred from owning more than 20 percent of media organizations, resulting in an [exodus](#) of foreign publishers. Putin in 2017 [signed](#) a law allowing Russian prosecutors to label media that receive funding from abroad as "foreign agents."

Related article: [After Foreign Agent Law, Russia Moves in on International Newspapers](#)

According to the latest [law](#), publishing or distributing foreign media publications without obtaining a permit or properly registering the mass media outlet with the Roskomnadzor media watchdog will be subject to fines.

Fines range from up to 1,500 rubles (\$23) for citizens and up to 30,000 rubles (\$470) for legal entities, Interfax [reported](#).

The amendment to Russia's code on administrative offenses was first adopted in the State Duma on May 30 and approved by the upper-house Federation Council on June 11.

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