

Russia Finds Wiretaps in Foreign-Made Clothing Irons – Trade Official

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The official did not specify the countries in which the irons were allegedly manufactured. [ulleo / Pixabay](#)

Russian authorities have discovered pre-installed wiretap devices inside imported clothing irons, the Industry and Trade Ministry's top radioelectronics industry official [said](#) Wednesday.

Vasily Shpak warned that bugged appliances and electronic devices are a commonplace reality but did not specify the countries in which the irons were allegedly manufactured nor the potential motives for wiretapping.

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“They are bugged. We have seen a couple of irons with [pre-installed] microphones. They look ordinary from the outside [...] but there must be a [transmitting] mechanism,” the state-run TASS news agency quoted Shpak as saying at a press conference.

Under a Russian law [adopted](#) in 2019, the distribution of devices that can transmit or store personal information without the owner's consent is punishable by up to four years in prison.

Shpak also [advised](#) iPhone users to avoid storing sensitive information on their devices.

“This [surveillance technology] is inherent for iPhones. While the [manufacturer's] intentions are good, the road to hell is paved with good intentions,” Shpak said.

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