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Tatneft Limits Gasoline Sales Following Ukrainian Drone Strike on Its Refinery

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A Tatneft gas station. **Vyacheslav Rebrov (CC BY 3.0)**

Tatneft, Russia's fifth-largest oil producer, has placed strict limits on gasoline and diesel purchases at its gas stations nationwide, Russian media reported, a move that comes days after Ukrainian drones attacked one of the company's refineries.

The Interfax news agency, citing a company representative, reported Tuesday that purchase caps have since been introduced across Tatneft's entire network of roughly 800 gas stations.

It was not immediately clear how long the restrictions are expected to last.

In the Chelyabinsk region, for example, passenger vehicles are restricted to purchases of 30 liters (8 gallons) of gasoline and 60 liters (16 gallons) of diesel, according to Interfax.

Reuters reported even tighter limits in southern Moscow, where fuel caps were restricted to 20 liters for gasoline and 40 liters for diesel.

There were also conflicting reports about whether Tatneft was requiring purchases to be

made in cash only. In comments to the St. Petersburg news outlet Fontanka, the company denied that customers could only pay in cash.

On Friday, Tatneft's flagship Taneco refinery in the industrial city of Nizhnekamsk reportedly halted operations following a strike by Ukrainian drones.

Following news of the fuel rationing, Tatneft's shares on the Moscow Exchange fell by more than 3% on Tuesday.

Related article: Russia's Energy Ministry Admits Drone Attacks Behind Gasoline Shortages

A growing number of Russian regions have seen local gas stations impose purchase limits in recent weeks. Russia's Energy Ministry has acknowledged that there are gasoline shortages and blamed them on Ukrainian drone attacks against the country's oil refineries and energy infrastructure.

While most rationing measures in Russia have so far appeared aimed at preventing panic-buying and hoarding, annexed Crimea is currently experiencing an acute shortage as Ukrainian attacks on fuel trucks have significantly disrupted deliveries to the peninsula, which does not have its own refineries.

Federal officials said last week that they have set up an "industry-wide task force" meant to ensure the "stable and efficient operation of the country's entire energy sector."

According to the latest weekly data from the federal statistics agency Rosstat, the average price of gasoline in Russia was 68.45 rubles per liter as of June 8, up 5.6% since the start of the year.

A ban on gasoline exports remains in force in Russia through July 31 to safeguard local supplies and combat rising prices.

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