

Russia Opens Antitrust Case Against Apple Over App Preinstallation Rules

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Russia's Federal Anti-Monopoly Service has opened a case against Apple for allegedly refusing to preinstall the state-backed messaging app Max and domestic app store RuStore on its devices, the regulator [said](#).

The case marks the latest clash between Apple and Russian authorities, which have sought to tighten state control over the country's digital market and require foreign technology companies to give domestic services greater access to their platforms.

The Federal Anti-Monopoly Service (FAS) said it had previously warned Apple to remove what it described as discriminatory conditions affecting Russian search engines and to comply with requirements for domestic software to be preinstalled on devices running Apple's iOS operating system.

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Apple partially complied with the warning by allowing a Russian search engine to be

preinstalled in an updated version of its software, the regulator said.

However, the company ignored the requirement covering what the FAS described as the “national messenger” and domestic app store, referring to Max and RuStore.

Apple could [face](#) a fine of up to 4 billion rubles (\$49.6 million) if found to have violated Russian competition law.

The regulator warned Apple in early July that it had until July 15, 2026, to comply with the preinstallation requirements. Apple subsequently enabled the preinstallation of a Russian search engine in iOS 26.6, according to the FAS.

Apple removed Max from its iPhone App Store in late June.

The U.S. technology company suspended official sales and shipments to Russia in 2022 following Moscow’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Its phones and other devices remain available in the country through parallel imports.

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