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Russia Hikes Tariffs on Spirits From 'Unfriendly' Countries

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Arthur Novosiltsev / Moskva News Agency

Russia has raised import duties on spirits imported from "unfriendly" countries to 35%, with a minimum tariff of 5 euros ($5.63) per liter, the Interfax news agency reported on Wednesday, citing a government decree.

The tariffs apply to whiskey, rum, gin, liqueurs, brandies, tinctures and undenatured ethyl alcohol, according to the document.

Russia maintains a list of 49 countries designated as "unfriendly," including EU member states, the U.S., U.K. and other countries that imposed sanctions on Moscow after the 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

Approved on Oct. 31, the tariffs will remain in effect through Dec. 31, 2027. The import duty previously stood at 20%, with a minimum tariff of 3 euros per liter.

Russia's 2027-29 draft budget estimates that the liquor tariff hike will generate an additional

10 billion rubles ($122 million) for the federal budget next year, according to Interfax.

Alcohol industry experts previously told the newspaper Kommersant that the tariff increase will likely pass through to consumer retail prices once existing stocks run dry.

They also warned that, while the import duty hike aims to boost demand for Russian-made spirits, domestic producers may still see limited sales growth as alcohol consumption gradually wanes.

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