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Tankers Carrying Russian Diesel Divert to Brazil After U.S. Buyers Balk – The Maritime Executive

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The tanker Leruo. **MarineTraffic**

Three tankers loaded with Russian diesel have arrived in or rerouted toward Brazil after U.S. buyers and officials declined the shipments over sanctions risks, the shipping industry outlet The Maritime Executive reported Thursday.

The diversions follow controversy over an Oct. 9 Russian diesel supply deal between U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin. While the vessels were headed towards the U.S., American fuel importers balked at purchasing the cargoes due to reputational risks and warnings from officials despite the Trump administration's sanctions waiver.

According to the Maritime Executive, the Sierra Leone-flagged tanker Leruo reached the Itacoatiara anchorage in Brazil earlier this week before continuing up the Amazon River toward Manaus. The Russian-flagged Primorye also reportedly arrived at the Itacoatiara

anchorage closely behind the Leruo.

The Sierra Leone-flagged Beast was said to be sailing off the South American coast with its tracking signal listed as "Brazil For Orders." Each vessel is reportedly carrying around 40,000 metric tons of diesel.

Brazilian importers were offered at least four cargoes of a combined 1.1 million barrels of Russian diesel this month, Sérgio Araújo, president of the fuel importers' association Abicom, told Bloomberg last week.

Related article: Brazilian Buyers Balk at Price of Russian Diesel Shunned by U.S. Importers – Bloomberg

If Brazil were to buy all four cargoes, the volume would be nearly twice what it imported from Russia in October. Traders said at the time that prices were not as attractive as those of U.S.-made fuel.

Brazil relies on imports for about a third of its diesel needs. Demand typically peaks toward the end of the year as farmers use more fuel to run machinery and truckers haul fertilizer.

The Maritime Executive reported that other tankers initially tracked by the environmental group Greenpeace as potentially heading toward the U.S. have also changed course. The Russian-flagged Talisman was recently spotted in the Mediterranean off Egypt, while the Malta-flagged and Greek-owned Agioi Fanendes has remained idling several hundred miles out in the Atlantic for more than a week, with its status set to "For Orders."

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