

Former Anti-Doping Lab Chief Accused Of Being Doping Mastermind

A Russian investigation has revealed that Grigory Rodchenkov, the former head of the Moscow anti-doping laboratory, established a [doping scheme](#) in which he engaged in the sale of prohibited substances to athletes.

In June, the committee opened criminal proceedings against Grigory Rodchenkov on charges of abuse of authority.

In a statement, Vladimir Markin, spokesman for the Russian Investigative Committee, remarked Rodchenkov also promised to help athletes obtain a clean doping record. The statement further reads that Rodchenkov purchased these substances in the United States according to preliminary investigation and promised to cover the fact that banned substances had been detected in their samples when selling them to clients. The Russian Investigative Committee spokesman also said the former head of the Moscow anti-doping laboratory could have destroyed the samples to conceal the selling of prohibited substances and avoid criminal responsibility that would bring him a much stricter punishment, than that exists for violating [World Anti-Doping Agency standards](#).

The investigation stated Rodchenkov deliberately decided in December 2014 to destroy 1,437 blood samples despite receiving a letter from the World Anti-Doping Agency requesting that he should keep the samples.

Markin said WADA sent a letter to him on December 9 demanding all probes in the organization, which had been taken over previous three months beginning from September 10, 2014, and those taken later on, were frozen and kept respectively till further instructions from WADA and added Grigory confirmed on December 10, 2014 assuring the samples were kept properly but issued an oral demand on December 12, 2014 to discard 1,437 probes, where 22 probes had been kept by then for less than three months and added the staff discarded the samples that very day.

It is also claimed by the investigation that Grigory Rodchenkov destroyed doping test samples of Russian athletes despite WADA forbidding it to hide his alleged trade in banned substances and avoid prosecution.

The Investigative Committee also revealed Rodchenkov's sister Marina in 2012 was convicted for the illegal trafficking of substances that could have been used for doping. It was further added by the Investigative Committee that investigators have reasons to believe that Rodchenkov was not simply a perpetrator, but the mastermind and organizer of a number of such schemes. The spokesman for the Committee said there is a possibility that new suspects may emerge in the case of Rodchenkov.

The Investigations Committee has sent papers to the Prosecutor-General's Office for questioning the ex-chief of the Russian anti-doping lab, who is currently living in the United States.

In Mid-May, the *New York Times* published an interview with Grigory Rodchenkov, who claimed that the sports authorities of Russia had allegedly prepared a [special doping program](#) for national athletes in order to win more medals at the home Winter Olympics in Sochi in 2014. Grigory added banned substances were taken by some Russian Olympic gold medalists. The former anti-doping official announced his readiness to offer evidence to WADA and the International Olympic Committee. He also remarked he can also share evidence about the need to re-check the doping samples from the 2014 Winter Olympics that are kept in Lausanne.