

- (f) details establishing the link between a given quality, reputation or other characteristic of the spirit drink and its geographical origin;
- (g) the names and addresses of the competent authorities or, if available, the names and addresses of the bodies that verify compliance with the provisions of the product specification pursuant to Article 38 and their specific tasks;
- (h) any specific labelling rule for the geographical indication in question.

Where applicable, requirements regarding packaging shall be included in the product specification, accompanied by a justification showing why the packaging must take place in the defined geographical area to safeguard quality, to ensure the origin or to ensure control, taking into account Union law, in particular Union law on the free movement of goods and the free provision of services.

2. Technical files submitted as part of any application before 8 June 2019 under Regulation (EC) No 110/2008 shall be deemed to be product specifications under this Article.

Article 23

Content of application for registration of a geographical indication

1. An application for registration of a geographical indication pursuant to Article 24(5) or (8) shall include at least:
 - (a) the name and address of the applicant group and of the competent authorities or, if available, the bodies that verify compliance with the provisions of the product specification;
 - (b) the product specification provided for in Article 22;
 - (c) a single document setting out the following:
 - (i) the main points of the product specification, including the name to be protected, the category to which the spirit drink belongs or the term 'spirit drink', the production method, a description of the characteristics of the spirit drink, a concise definition of the geographical area, and, where appropriate, specific rules concerning packaging and labelling;
 - (ii) a description of the link between the spirit drink and its geographical origin as referred to in point (4) of Article 3, including, where appropriate, the specific elements of the product description or production method justifying the link.

An application as referred to in Article 24(8) shall also include the publication reference of the product specification and proof that the name of the product is protected in its country of origin.

2. An application dossier as referred to in Article 24(7) shall include:
 - (a) the name and address of the applicant group;
 - (b) the single document referred to in point (c) of paragraph 1 of this Article;
 - (c) a declaration by the Member State that it considers that the application meets the requirements of this Regulation and the provisions adopted pursuant thereto;
 - (d) the publication reference of the product specification.

Article 24

Application for registration of a geographical indication

1. Applications for the registration of a geographical indication under this Chapter may only be submitted by groups who work with the spirit drink, the name of which is proposed for registration.
2. An authority designated by a Member State may be deemed to be a group for the purposes of this Chapter if it is not feasible for the producers concerned to form a group by reason of their number, geographical locations or organisational characteristics. In such case, the application dossier referred to in Article 23(2) shall state those reasons.

3. A single natural or legal person may be deemed to be a group for the purpose of this Chapter if both of the following conditions are fulfilled:

- (a) the person concerned is the only producer willing to submit an application; and
- (b) the defined geographical area possesses characteristics which differ appreciably from those of neighbouring areas, the characteristics of the spirit drink are different from those produced in neighbouring areas or the spirit drink has a special quality, reputation or other characteristic which is clearly attributable to its geographical origin.

4. In the case of a geographical indication that designates a cross-border geographical area, several groups from different Member States or third countries may submit a joint application for registration.

Where a joint application is submitted, it shall be submitted to the Commission by a Member State concerned, or by an applicant group in a third country concerned, directly or through the authorities of that third country after consultation of all the authorities and applicant groups concerned. The joint application shall include the declaration referred to in point (c) of Article 23(2) from all the Member States concerned. The requirements laid down in Article 23 shall be fulfilled in all Member States and third countries concerned.

In the case of joint applications, the related national opposition procedures shall be carried out in all the Member States concerned.

5. Where the application relates to a geographical area in a Member State, the application shall be submitted to the authorities of that Member State.

The Member State shall scrutinise the application by appropriate means in order to check that it is reasoned and meets the requirements of this Chapter.

6. As part of the scrutiny referred to in the second subparagraph of paragraph 5, the Member State shall initiate a national opposition procedure that ensures adequate publication of the application referred to in paragraph 5 and that provides for a reasonable period within which any natural or legal person having a legitimate interest and resident or established on its territory may submit an opposition to the application.

The Member State shall examine the admissibility of any opposition received in accordance with the criteria referred to in Article 28.

7. If, after assessment of any opposition received, the Member State considers that the requirements of this Chapter are met, it may take a favourable decision and submit an application dossier to the Commission. In such a case, it shall inform the Commission of admissible oppositions received from a natural or legal person that has legally marketed the products in question, using the names concerned continuously for at least five years preceding the date of the publication referred to in paragraph 6. Member States shall also keep the Commission informed of any national judicial proceedings that may affect the registration procedure.

The Member State shall ensure that where it takes a favourable decision pursuant to the first subparagraph, that decision is made public and that any natural or legal person having a legitimate interest has an opportunity to appeal.

The Member State shall ensure that the version of the product specification on which its favourable decision is based is published, and shall provide electronic access to the product specification.

The Member State shall also ensure adequate publication of the version of the product specification on which the Commission takes its decision pursuant to Article 26(2).

8. Where the application relates to a geographical area in a third country, the application shall be submitted to the Commission, either directly or via the authorities of the third country concerned.

9. The documents referred to in this Article which are sent to the Commission shall be in one of the official languages of the Union.

Article 25

Provisional national protection

1. On a provisional basis only, a Member State may grant protection to a name under this Chapter at national level, with effect from the date on which an application is submitted to the Commission.