

GUIDELINES FOR EXAMINATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS FOR CRAFT AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS

EUROPEAN UNION INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE (EUIPO)

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Introduction and editor's note

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Introduction and editor's note

Section 1

Legal framework

The [Regulation \(EU\) 2023/2411](#)¹ [CIGIR] on the protection of geographical indications for craft and industrial products entered into force on 16 November 2023 and is applicable from 1 December 2025 [[Article 73 CIGIR](#)].

This Regulation is complemented by:

- [Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2025/1955](#) [CIGI DR]²;
- [Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2025/1956](#) [CIGI IR]³;
- [Rules of procedure of the Advisory Board](#).

1 Unitary right and exhaustive system

The CIGIR introduced a unitary right and an exhaustive system of protection of geographical indications [GIs] for craft and industrial products at the EU level. This new EU-wide intellectual property right complements the pre-existing EU-level GI protection afforded to wine, spirit drinks, and agricultural products⁴. In line with Article 118(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union⁵, the CIGIR provides uniform protection of GIs for craft and industrial products throughout the EU.

The system is also exhaustive in nature ⁶meaning that it overrides and replaces geographical indication rights at the national level that might have provided protection for the names of craft and industrial products in Member States prior to the application of the CIGIR (see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 5, Recognition of existing / established GIs](#)).

Consequently, pursuant to [Article 70 CIGIR](#), by 2 December 2026:

- national specific protection for GIs for craft and industrial products will cease to exist and applications still pending at that point in time will be considered as not having been submitted unless a request pursuant to Article 70(2) CIGIR is made;
- Interested Member States must inform the European Commission and the Office of the names of the CIGIs they want to register as EU CIGIs pursuant to the CIGIR,

¹ [Regulation \(EU\) 2023/2411 of the European Parliament and the Council of 18 October 2023 on the protection of geographical indications for craft and industrial products and amending Regulations \(EU\) 2017/1001 and \(EU\) 2019/1753](#)

² [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2025/1955 of 29 September 2025 supplementing Regulation \(EU\) 2023/2411 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of geographical indications for craft and industrial products](#)

³ [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2025/1956 of 29 September 2025 laying down rules for the application of Regulation \(EU\) 2023/2411 of the European Parliament and of the Council on geographical indication protection for craft and industrial products](#)

⁴ [Regulation \(EU\) 2024/1143 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European Union geographical indications for wine, spirit drinks and agricultural products, as well as traditional specialties guaranteed and optional quality terms for agricultural products, amending Regulations \(EU\) No 1308/2013, \(EU\) 2019/787 and \(EU\) 2019/1753 and repealing Regulation \(EU\) No 1151/2012](#)

⁵ Article 118(1) TFEU reads: 'In the context of the establishment and functioning of the internal market, the European Parliament and the Council, acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure, shall establish measures for the **creation of European intellectual property rights to provide uniform protection of intellectual property rights throughout the Union** and for the setting up of centralised Union-wide authorisation, coordination and supervision arrangements'.

⁶ 08/09/2009, [C-478/07](#), Budějovický Budvar, EU:C:2009:521; 14/09/2017, [C-56/16 P](#), PORT CHARLOTTE, EU:C:2017:693, § 76).

provided that those names were legally protected or established by usage at the national level prior to 1 December 2025.

2 The EUIPO as the EU authority in charge

Under the CIGIR, the Office has been entrusted with:

- the role of being the EU's competent authority for managing CIGI-related procedures (registration, amendments, cancellation and appeal) in the EU;
- developing and maintaining the Union Register of CIGIs; and
- the role of being the EU's competent authority in WIPO's international registration system of CIGIs (Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement⁷).

⁷ [Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications and Regulations under the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement](#)

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Introduction and editor's note

Section 2

Guidelines

The EUIPO Guidelines on CIGIs are the main point of reference for users of the EU's GI scheme for these products, and for professional advisers who want to ensure they have the latest and most reliable information on examination practices.

They contain general instructions, which must be adapted to the particularities of a given case, and they aim to ensure the application of uniform legal standards and principles to the examination of CIGI files, thereby enhancing the coherence, consistency and predictability of Office decisions.

The EUIPO Guidelines on CIGIs, therefore, are not legal acts but self-imposed rules of conduct adopted by way of an administrative decision.

These Guidelines were adopted by the Executive Director ([Decision](#) No EX-26-10), after consulting the Advisory Board, on 11 February 2026, and the Management Board on 14/04/2026. They entered into force on 21/05/2026.

1 List of abbreviations

EU	European Union
CIGIs	craft and industrial geographical indications
CIGIR	Regulation (EU) 2023/2411 of the European Parliament and the Council of 18 October 2023 on the protection of geographical indications for craft and industrial products and amending Regulations (EU) 2017/1001 and (EU) 2019/1753
CIGI DR	Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2025/1955 of 29 September 2025 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2023/2411 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of geographical indications for craft and industrial products
CIGI IR	Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/1956 of 29 September 2025 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2023/2411 of the European Parliament and of the Council on geographical indication protection for craft and industrial products
EUDPR	Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC
EUTMR	Regulation (EU) 2017/1001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2017 on the European Union trade mark
GC	General Court of the European Union
GI	geographical indication
GIs Division	Geographical Indications Division
EUIPO/Office	European Union Intellectual Property Office
OJEU	Official Journal of the European Union
PGI	protected geographical indication

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TFEU	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union
TM	trade mark

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Part A

***Geographical indications for craft and
industrial products***

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Part A

***Geographical indications for craft and
industrial products***

Section 1

Introduction

Part A of these Guidelines is intended to assist applicants in preparing applications to register GIs under [Regulation \(EU\) 2023/2411](#) [CIGIR]. It provides information on the GI requirements and the necessary presentation of the information in the product specification, the single document, and the accompanying documentation respectively (see the Guidelines, [Part A Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 2 Application](#)).

(For illustrative purposes only, and in the absence of precedents, invented examples will be used in these Guidelines. These are necessary to help applicants better understand the interpretative guidance provided here).

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Part A

***Geographical indications for craft and
industrial products***

Section 2

Application

An application to register a geographical indication must include:

1. a product specification ([Article 9 CIGIR](#));
2. the single document ([Article 10 CIGIR](#));
3. accompanying documentation ([Article 11 CIGIR](#)).

1 Product specification

The product specification is the document that contains the specific conditions that define the products that may be referred to using the registered name.

The product specification must include:

1. the name to be protected as a geographical indication (see the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 3, Name](#));
2. the type of product (see the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 4, Product](#));
3. a description of the product, including raw materials (if applicable) (see the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 4, Product](#));
4. a specification of the defined geographical area and evidence of the link between the area and the product's quality, reputation or other characteristics (see the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 5, Geographical area](#), and the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 8, Link](#));
5. evidence that the product originates in the defined geographical area, including the production steps (see the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 4, Product](#));
6. a description of production methods, including traditional methods and practices (if applicable) (see the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 4, Product](#));
7. information on packaging, if packaging must occur in the defined geographical area, with justification (see the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 6, Rules on packaging](#));
8. specific labelling rules for the product (see the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 7, Rules on labelling](#));
9. an indication of the production steps carried out in other Member States or third countries, with verification provisions;
10. other requirements provided by Member States or producer groups, as long as they are objective, non-discriminatory, and compatible with EU and national law.

The Office published a [form](#) for drawing up the product specification that must be used in direct registration procedure and when registering GIs originating in a third country, as in those procedures the product specification is sent to the Office as an attachment.

It is left to Member State's competent authorities to decide whether to use this form in the standard registration procedure.

2 Single document

The [single document](#) is a concise summary of the product specification and must include:

1. the name to be protected as a geographical indication (see the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 3, Name](#));
2. the type of product (see the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 4, Product](#));
3. a description of the product, including packaging and labelling (if applicable) (see the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 4, Product](#));
4. a concise definition of the geographical area (see the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 5, Geographical area](#));
5. a description of the link between the product and the defined geographical area, including specific elements of the product description or production method, justifying the link (see the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 8, Link](#)).

The single document must be concise and must not exceed 2 500 words, except where justified.

The applicant can seek assistance from the respective competent authority of the Member State in preparing the single document under the standard registration procedure, or in case of a direct registration procedure, from the Office. Nevertheless, the applicant remains responsible for the final content of the single document.

3 Accompanying documentation

The accompanying documentation provides additional information in support of the application and must include:

1. Name and contact details of the applicant;
2. Name and contact details of the competent authority of the Member State responsible for controls and, if applicable, product certification bodies or natural persons verifying compliance;
3. Information concerning any limitations on the use or protection of the GIs, as well as any transitional measures proposed by the applicant or by the national competent authority, in particular following the examination by the national competent authority of the application and any opposition;
4. Any other relevant information deemed appropriate by the competent authority of the Member State, or by the applicant.

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Part A

***Geographical indications for craft and
industrial products***

Section 3

Name

Article 4 CIGIR Article 9(1)(a) CIGIR Article 10(1)(a) CIGIR Article 22(3)(d) CIGIR [third countries] Articles 42 - 44 CIGIR	Article 3(2) CIGIR Article 31(2)(a) CIGIR
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Geographical indications provide protection to the name of a product that complies with certain requirements ([Article 6 CIGIR](#)).

According to [Article 9\(1\)\(a\) CIGIR](#), the product specification, and therefore also the single document, must include the name proposed to be protected as a GI. This name may be either **a geographical name** of the place of production of the product, **or a name used in the course of trade or in common language**, that is, everyday language or a name widely understood by the public, to describe or to refer to the specific product in the defined geographical area.

The name must be spelled exactly the same whenever mentioned in the product specification and the single document and, at each mention, it must be placed in inverted commas, for example, 'Mars'. This is important because it serves as an indicator of what is not to be translated once the single document is published.

The Office will assess all the information provided in the application on the use of the name. If, during the examination of the GI application, the Office has doubts about the name's use and/or no conclusive information can be found, for example on the internet, the competent authority of the Member State, the third country, or the applicant, as applicable⁸, will be asked to submit further evidence in a separate document (not in the single document).

1 Geographical name

A name is eligible for protection as a GI if it **identifies a product** rooted in, or having its origin in, a specific place, region or country. The name may consist of **a geographical term alone**, or it may additionally include **a reference to a product**.

Examples: geographical term alone 'Orion' (for belts). Geographical term and reference to the product 'Mars Red Marble' (for marble).

⁸ See the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 2, Standard registration procedure, paragraph 1, Applicant](#); the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 3, Direct registration procedure, paragraph 1, Applicant](#); and the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 4, Registration procedure for GIs originating in a third country, paragraph 1, Applicant](#).

2 Name used in the course of trade or in common language

A name used in the course of trade or in common language is **a name by which a product is known and promoted** in the marketplace in a defined geographical area and that is used to describe or refer to that specific product in that geographical area. **These names do not need to include a specific geographical term.**

A name used in the course of trade or in common language is eligible for protection as a GI if it designates or refers to a specific product in a defined geographical area.

Example: non-geographical term 'Kryptonite' for emeralds

3 Presentation of the name

The name to be protected as a GI will be registered only in the languages that are, or were, historically used to designate the specific product in the demarcated geographical area.

It must be presented in its original script together with a transliteration in Latin characters when the original script is in other alphabets.

Multiple and/or alternative names may also be registered (see [paragraph 3.4](#)).

3.1 Language of the territory or historically used names

The name to be registered must be presented in the language or languages of the territory or in the languages historically used in the demarcated geographical area. This means that the name may be presented in any official language of the Member State from which the application originates, in all official languages of the demarcated geographical area, and in languages which, although not official in the demarcated area or in the Member State, have been used historically, inter alia, because of the proximity of borders, the former dominant language of the area, or the presence of ethnic groups of a given language settled in the demarcated area. 'Languages historically used', therefore, also include dialects. The only criterion is that the name is registered for the language variants as they appear on the market in the defined geographical area.

Other language variants, including translations, would not be acceptable for registration, that is, if the language variant is only used for marketing purposes outside of the defined geographical area.

3.2 Original script and other alphabets

The name of a GI will be registered in its original script. Where the original script is not in Latin characters, a transcription in Latin characters will be registered together with the name in its original script. Both versions of the GI will have equal status ([Article 37\(4\) CIGIR](#)).

The presentation should be 'Name in original script[space]/[space]transcription in Latin characters'.

Example: 'Марс Червен мрамор / Mars Cherven mramor' (Bulgarian Cyrillic) for red marble.

3.3 Single name and multiple products

A single name proposed to be registered as a GI may cover two or more forms of a product, for example, raw and processed, in a single GI application.

Example: 'Kryptonite' for raw/unprocessed emerald gemstones and cut emeralds.

3.4 Alternative names

If the product is identified on the market by two or more names, this should be reflected in the application as well. In those cases, the name proposed for registration as a GI should include alternative names. Pursuant to [Article 31\(2\)\(a\) CIGI IR](#), the registered name(s) of the product, including their **transcriptions or transliterations** in Latin characters, where applicable, **multiple names, transcriptions and transliterations** will be recorded **as alternative names**, separated by a space, a forward slash and a second space.

Where **multiple names** proposed for a registration as a GI are **synonyms**, these should be presented as follows:

'Name one[space]/[space]Name two'.

Example: 'Mars Red Marble / Martian Red Marble' for marble.

In the case of **multiple names and transcriptions (or transliterations)**, where those are to be used as alternatives, the name proposed to be registered as a GI should be presented as follows:

'Name one in original script [space]/[space] transcription in Latin characters [space]/[space] Name two in original script [space]/[space] transcription in Latin characters'.

Example: 'Марс Червен мрамор / Mars Cherven mramor / Марсиански Червен мрамор / Marsianski Cherven mramor' (*Bulgarian Cyrillic*) for marble.

In cases where **multiple lengthy names** are proposed for registration as a GI, it is acceptable – taking into account the word limit of the single document and for ease of

reading – to use only one of the names throughout the text of the single document. All alternative names should be listed in the ‘Name’ section. A clarification specifying that a chosen version will be used in the single document as a reference to all variants of the name covered by the application can be introduced, for example, at the beginning of the product description section.

Example: *‘Марс Червен мрамор / Mars Cherven mramor / Марсиански Червен мрамор / Marsianski Cherven mramor’*. Hereinafter *‘Mars Cherven mramor’* means all variants of the name covered by this application.

3.5 Two names used simultaneously to designate one product

Where a name to be registered as a GI consists of two different names that are to be used simultaneously designating one product, the presentation should be: ‘Name one [space]-[space]Name Two’ (e.g. when the name includes two language variants, both used in the demarcated geographical area and which simultaneously feature on the label, for example, ‘Marmo rosso di Marte – Marbre rouge de Mars’, or when the product is identified by a name that consists of two distinct geographical references/terms but which are always used together on a designated product: ‘Mars – Venus’).

3.6 Two or more names to designate distinct products

Where **two or more names** are proposed for registration as a GI for **two or more distinct products** and the names are not interchangeable, that is, they are not alternative names, for all the products covered by the product specification, the format should be: ‘Name one [space]-[space]Name Two’.

Example: ‘Mars red marble – Mars red granite’ for marble and granite stones.

In the case of **two or more names**, where one is an **umbrella term** for all distinct products but the second name is only applicable to one specific product, the following applies:

Example: ‘Jupiter cutlery / Jupiter knives’ for cutlery and knives.

3.7 Distinct products entitled to use the same registered name

Pursuant to [Article 9 CIGI IR](#), *distinct products* are products that can be differentiated from others when placed on the market, or are considered different by consumers. It may also refer to craft and industrial products covered by a different classification under the Combined Nomenclature referred to in [Regulation \(EC\) No 2658/87](#).

The Office will consider as an indicator of a possible distinct product a choice of different categories under the ‘Type of product’ (see the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 4, Product, 2 Type of product](#)).

If the name designates several distinct products, then compliance with the requirements for registration shall be shown separately for each such product.

When the name is not wholly interchangeable for all products, or where one name is an umbrella term for a category of products, but one term is only applicable to one specific product within that broader category, it is recommended to split the application and apply for two (or more) separate geographical indications.

Nevertheless, it is possible to submit an application for the registration of one name that would cover all products (an umbrella name). The variants of the names for specific products falling within the broader category of products should be then specified in the product specification and the single document under respective points on product description and labelling (see the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 3, Name, 3 Presentation of the name](#); the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 4, Product, 2 Type of product](#); and the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 7, Rules on labelling](#)).

The outcome of the analysis depends on the name to be protected and its relationship to the distinct products it covers.

Invented example: ‘Jupiter cutlery’ (covering specific products such as ‘Jupiter spoons’, ‘Jupiter knives’).

In this case, ‘Jupiter cutlery’ is to be considered an umbrella term, and the products it describes (spoons, knives) are perceived as different by the consumer and will be differentiated from others when placed on the market, but still within the same broader (commercial) group covered by the term ‘cutlery’.

If the name is an umbrella term, there will be no need to submit separate applications to cover various distinct products, as shown in the example above, as all these distinct products may be covered by the name ‘Jupiter cutlery’.

Umbrella names are acceptable where, for instance:

- all products covered fall within a single (commercial) group on the market;
- all products covered share common features due to their ‘link with the geographical area’;
- consumers associate the term used as a (part of the) name with a ‘family of products’/broader (commercial) group, and;
- where labelling rules ensure clear differentiation of specific forms of the product.

In addition, when the products belong to different categories (see the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 4, Product, 2 Type of product](#)), the Office will verify that the name for which protection is sought can be used in relation to all ‘distinct products’ covered by the application.

For example:

Invented example: ‘Kryptonite emeralds’ covers unprocessed emerald gemstones and cut emeralds (whether mounted or not, on rings, bracelets and necklaces).

In this example ‘unprocessed emerald gemstones’ might fall under the category of ‘stones and minerals’, while ‘cut emeralds’ would fit under the category of ‘jewellery’. These are also considered ‘distinct products’ as they cater to different consumers, with raw emeralds being different from cut or mounted emeralds.

In these cases, it may also be possible to use one single designation to cover all products with other forms and finishings, with these being specified in the product description and labelling.

In the case of ‘Kryptonite emeralds’, the finish and form of the final products could be included in the ‘product description’ in the product specification and the single document. For example, emeralds sold under the name ‘Kryptonite emeralds’ come in various forms, such as natural, unprocessed stones or stones already fitted for use in jewellery, like being mounted on rings, necklaces and earrings. In addition, the ‘labelling’ requirements should specify that, for example, the ‘Kryptonite emeralds’ when sold in unprocessed form, will be marked as ‘Kryptonite emeralds’ (unprocessed), or if sold fitted in a piece of jewellery, will be marked as ‘Kryptonite emeralds’ (ring) or ‘Made with “Kryptonite emerald”’ (see the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 7, Rules on labelling](#)).

The following example taken from the EU GI scheme for agricultural products may help to better understand how distinct products should be dealt with:

The entire range of ‘[Scottish Salmon](#)’ products, presentations and dishes including frozen, smoked, ready meals, salmon mousse and salmon pâté are allowed to bear this designation with obligatory mention of the place of manufacture on their label accompanied by the reference to the manufacturing process. Scottish Salmon, which is not presented as a single ingredient, fresh, chilled, product to the consumer (and not previously frozen) may benefit from the aforementioned designation but must state either ‘Made with Scottish Salmon’, ‘Made using Scottish Salmon’, ‘Contains Scottish Salmon’ or lists Scottish Salmon as an ingredient on product packaging, as appropriate.

4 Generic terms

In line with Article [42\(1\) CIGIR](#), a generic term at the time of the application cannot be registered as a GI.

Article [4\(6\) CIGIR](#), defines generic terms as:

1. a name of a product which, although relating to the place, region or country where the product was originally produced or marketed, has become the common name of a product in the EU;
2. a common term in the EU that is descriptive of the type of product or of the product attributes; or
3. a term that does not refer to a specific product.

To establish whether a name is generic, account must be taken of all relevant factors ([Article 42\(2\) CIGIR](#)), in particular, the existing situation in areas of consumption and/or the relevant EU or national law. This means that the Office will have to assess **the existing situation in the Member State** where the name originates, but also the **situation in other Member States** where the name is being used (i.e. reference to the areas of consumption refers to all the territories where the name is being used). This includes consideration, in particular, of the following factors:

- the fact that the corresponding name had been used for **a considerable time** in certain Member States other than the Member State of origin, and
- the fact that a product has been **legally marketed** under a corresponding name in certain Member States (see by analogy, 16/03/1999, C-289/96, C-293/96 and C-299/96, [Feta](#), EU:C:1999:141, § 88 and § 99).

The factors that may be taken into consideration in terms of how they are produced:

- the existence of national rules or specific codified practices;
- the condition in which production was commenced (in particular the objectives sought, whether the initiative was private or public, the market and the target user);
- the quantities produced each year;
- the final destination of the product;
- the exact word elements and reproductions of the relevant trade marks used.

The factors that may be taken into consideration in terms of consumption:

- the existence of the national rules on the marketing of the product;
- the quantities produced annually;
- the geographic origin of the legally marketed product;
- the specific labels present on the market.

The factors that may be taken into account in terms of consumer knowledge:

- definitions of the term proposed as a name of a GI, in particular, in general works such as dictionaries and encyclopaedias, relevant public opinion studies or surveys, and any other additional information (see by analogy, Commission Regulation (EC) [No 1829/2002](#), 14 October 2002).

A name becomes generic only if the direct link between, on the one hand, the geographical origin of the product and, on the other hand, a specific quality of that product, its reputation or another characteristic of the product, attributable to that origin, has disappeared, and that the name does no more than describe a style or type of product (2/07/2009, [C-343/07](#), Bavaria and Bavaria Italia, EU:C:2009:415, § 107).

In case of doubt, the Office will request the competent authority of the Member State, third country, or the applicant, depending on the applicable procedure (see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI Procedures, Section 2, Standard registration procedure](#); the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 3, Direct registration procedure](#); and the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 4, Registration procedure for GIs originating in a third country](#)), to provide evidence that the name is not generic.

Additionally, if the name submitted for registration contains qualitative terms such as 'real', 'authentic', 'original', etc. or a production method such as 'ECO', 'natural',

‘traditional’, the Office will verify that the term is actually used to identify the specific product on the market. The inclusion of this type of terms in the name creates the risk that a name will ‘capture’ that method of production and may create confusion with non-GI producers also using that method. General and undefined terms are particularly problematic (‘natural’, ‘traditional’).

5 Homonyms

In line with [Article 43 CIGIR](#), a name proposed to be registered as a GI that is wholly or partly homonymous with a name already registered or applied for as a GI in the EU and that is liable to mislead the consumer as to the true geographical origin of a product will not be registered.

Homonymous names (‘homonyms’) in this context are names that are spelled or pronounced in the same way but which refer to different geographical areas.

If the homonym is liable to mislead the consumer into believing that products come from another territory, it will not be registered even if the homonym is the name for the actual territory, region or place of origin of the products in question.

Nevertheless, homonyms may be registered if there is sufficient distinction in practice between the conditions of local and traditional usage and their presentation, taking into account the need to ensure equitable treatment of the producers concerned and the need to ensure that consumers are not misled as to the true identity or geographical origin of the products.

To ensure that the name applied for is not wholly or partly homonymous with a name already registered or applied for in the EU, the applicant may find it helpful to use the Office’s [Glview](#) database.

6 Conflicts with earlier trade marks

An earlier trade mark that was applied for, registered, or established by use in good faith within the EU before the date on which the application for registration of the GI is submitted to the Office, may continue to be used and renewed, provided that no grounds for invalidity or revocation of that trade mark exist under [Directive \(EU\) 2015/2436](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council or under the EUTMR. In such cases, the use of the GI and of the relevant trade mark will be permitted (so-called ‘co-existence’).

Following [Article 44\(2\) CIGIR](#), however, an application for registration of a GI will be rejected if the name proposed would be liable to mislead the consumer as to the true identity of the product in the light of earlier trade marks with reputation or well-known marks.

On reputed and well-known marks, see the [EUIPO Guidelines for the examination of trade marks, Part C, Opposition](#).

To establish whether or not there are registered trade marks that might be an obstacle to a GI registration, the applicant may find it helpful to use the EUIPO's [TMview](#) database.

***GUIDELINES FOR EXAMINATION OF
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Part A

***Geographical indications for craft and
industrial products***

Section 4

Product

Article 3 CIGIR	Article 8 CIGI IR
Article 4 CIGIR	Article 9 CIGI IR
Article 6 CIGIR	
Article 9 CIGIR	
Article 10 CIGIR	
Annex II CIGIR	

1 Scope: craft and industrial products

Article 3(1) CIGIR	Article 8 CIGI IR
Article 4(1)(a) and (b) CIGIR	Article 9 CIGI IR
Article 6 CIGIR	

The CIGIR only applies to craft and industrial products.

A *craft product* means a product produced either entirely by hand or with the aid of manual or digital tools, or by mechanical means, whenever the manual contribution is an important component of the finished product.

An *industrial product* means a product produced in a standardised way, including by serial production and using machines.

Before submitting their application, applicants must verify that their product does not fall under the agricultural GI scheme. For example, some products, such as raw hides and skins, and raw furskins, are covered under the GI scheme for agricultural products (See Annex I of [Regulation \(EU\) 2024/1143](#) and Chapters 1 to 23 of the Combined Nomenclature established by [Regulation \(EEC\) No 2658/87](#)).

2 Type of product

The CIGIR does not provide for a definition of a 'Type of product'. The Office understands that 'Type of product' refers to a category of products, that is, it does not refer to a single, specific product. [Recital 5](#) of the CIGIR lists some examples of these categories of products, that is, natural stones, woodwork, jewellery, textiles, lace, cutlery, glass, porcelain, and processed hides and skins.

The Office has prepared a non-exhaustive list of categories. When applying for registration of a name as a GI, it will be necessary to choose one or more (in case of an application covering distinct products, see also the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical](#)

[indications for craft and industrial products, Section 3, Name, paragraph 3.7 Distinct products entitled to use the same registered name](#)) of the below listed categories:

- Glass and crystal (e.g. glassware);
- Stones and minerals (e.g. stones in blocks or minimally processed/cut, non-finished products);
- Ceramic products (e.g. pottery);
- Clothing articles (e.g. trousers, belts);
- Other textile products (e.g. tapestry and lace);
- Jewellery (e.g. rings);
- Furniture (e.g. chairs);
- Tools (e.g. spades);
- Cutlery (e.g. 'forks, knives, and spoons');
- Ironmongery or metal work in general;
- Watches/clocks;
- Musical instruments;
- Paper/cardboard.

If the product does not fit under any of the above categories, the category 'other' may be chosen.

3 Specific product

According to the CIGIR, in the product specification and the single document the applicant has to provide a description of the product designated by the name for which registration is sought. This must include, where appropriate, a description of the raw materials used.

In addition to the textual description of the products, pictures may be added. The textual description and the picture must not be contradictory.

3.1 Commonly used definitions and standards

The principal physical, technical and other characteristics of the product, the name of which is being put forward for protection, must be provided in the product specification and the single document, including, if appropriate, the raw materials used.

The description must include commonly used definitions and standards for that product and by giving verifiable technical data. The product cannot be described in a generic way, and its specificities should be apparent from the description. That description should not include technical characteristics inherent to all products of that type or mandatory legal requirements that would not distinguish the product from other products of the same kind.

The description must be precise and use the terms that professionals of the same category of products consider to be common.

The list of raw materials (see the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 4, Product, 3 Specific product, paragraph 3.2 Raw materials for processed products](#)) should be provided in the case of processed products if the raw materials are important for the link or specificity of the product (see the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 8, Link](#)). The description may also include a percentage of each of the raw materials used. The list of raw materials has to be clear, precise and coherent with the information provided in the product specification and the single document.

The use of different materials may influence the final product. Therefore, specifically listing raw materials and the allowed limits for those raw materials that ensure the characteristics of the product must be stated in the product specification and the single document. This is essential to ensure that consumers are not misled about the characteristics of the product and that the compliance with the product specification of a particular GI can be checked on the market by control authorities.

Finally, products that are contrary to public policy are excluded from GI protection.

Examples of products contrary to public policy: ivory products.

3.2 Raw materials for processed products

The general rule is that raw materials for processed products can come from anywhere.

Therefore, it is acceptable that the raw materials used in the production of a processed product bearing a GI come from areas other than the demarcated geographical area as long as the causal link exists with the final product and relates, for example, to specific know-how or reputation.

However, producers may wish to introduce geographical restrictions to the sourcing of raw materials.

According to [Article 9\(1\)\(c\) CIGIR](#) and [Article 8\(1\)\(b\) CIGI IR](#), the product specification may include a description of the raw materials and, should this be the case, may identify which of those are required to come from the defined geographical area and the procedures that producers have in place as regards the proof of origin of those raw materials. In such a case, any restriction to the origin of raw materials provided in the product specification must be justified in relation to the link ([Article 8\(2\) CIGI IR](#)).

3.3 Health claims

The GI scheme is not a vehicle for implementation of hygiene and safety provisions, nor for approving health claims, so explicit health claims are not accepted in the single document or product specification.

If the product specification and the single document contain any health claims, the Office will request the deletion of those claims, even those asserting compliance with

the separate legislation governing health claims. GI documents are not the appropriate place to re-state or re-implement hygiene laws. In any event, any GI product that does not meet hygiene requirements cannot be placed on the market, irrespective of any assertion in the single document that the product is deemed to meet these requirements.

Some production methods pose intrinsic health risks, such as the use of specific chemical products. However, it is not for the GI system to implement these safety concerns.

Derogations from hygiene rules are sometimes permitted for GI products, but these derogations must follow a separate process and cannot be granted under a GI approval process – any text of this nature must be deleted.

3.4 Production steps

A 'production step' refers to any stage of production, including manufacturing, processing, obtaining, extracting, cutting, or preparation, up to the point where the product is in the required form for it to be placed on the market ([Article 4\(4\) CIGIR](#)). Therefore, the packaging and storage of the final product for commercial purposes are not part of the production steps. In the product specification and the single document, the applicant does not need to specify the conditions under which the product must be packaged, unless the applicant determines that the packaging is restricted to being carried out within the boundaries of the demarcated geographical area; where this is the case, justification will be needed. For more information in relation to restrictions on packaging and justification, please refer to the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 6, Rules on packaging](#).

[Article 6\(1\)\(c\) CIGIR](#) requires that at least one of the production steps of the product takes place in the defined geographical area. However, the applicant may also decide that all production steps must take place in the defined geographical area. If this is the case, listing the production steps in the single document will suffice. Further details, or a complete description of production steps, can be provided in the product specification.

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Part A

***Geographical indications for craft and
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Section 5

Geographical area

Article 6 CIGIR Article 9 CIGIR Article 10 CIGIR Annex II CIGIR	Article 8 CIGI IR Article 12 CIGI IR
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The nature of GIs requires that the product originates in a specific place. A substantial proportion of the value of the product designated by the GI derives from its origin in the given geographical area. This should ensure that only products having a strong link to the geographical area can benefit from GI protection.

The geographical area may refer to a specific place, region or country.

1 Definition of the geographical area in a concise way and without ambiguities

The geographical area must be defined in the product specification and the single document in a precise manner that presents no ambiguities, referring as far as possible to physical boundaries (rivers, mountains, etc.), administrative boundaries (province, municipality, etc.), or other types of boundaries (e.g. coordinates, reference to cultural/ethnographic regions), provided they are capable of delimiting and defining the area in question. The indicated types of boundaries may be combined to ensure sufficient precision.

In addition to the above, a map of the area may be included for ease of identification of the area.

2 Proof of geographical origin of the product: traceability

The product specification shall describe the procedures that must be followed to ensure that the product originates in the defined geographical area ('traceability').

For this purpose, producers must be able to:

1. identify the supplier, quantity, and origin of the raw material, if applicable, and/or the products received, if any, and the recipient, quantity, and destination of the products supplied; and
2. provide evidence that the product is manufactured in compliance with the production steps defined in the product specifications.

[Article 9\(1\)\(e\) CIGIR](#) requires that the product specification include 'evidence that the product originates in the defined geographical area', by identifying the production steps that occur there.

Article 8(1) CIGI IR requires producers to have a traceability system in place, detailing how that evidence is to be structured and maintained in practice.

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***Geographical indications for craft and
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Section 6

Rules on packaging

[Article 9 CIGIR](#)

[Article 10 CIGIR](#)

[Annex I CIGIR](#)

[Annex II CIGIR](#)

If there are specific rules concerning the packaging, these should be mentioned in the product specification and the single document.

If the applicant determines that the packaging must take place in the defined geographical area, it must provide sufficient product-specific justification as to why the packaging must take place in that area ([Article 9\(1\)\(g\) CIGIR](#) and [Annex II CIGIR](#)). General justifications are not enough; justifications focused on the product in question and explaining the reasons for such restrictions are necessary.

The requirement to package a product in its geographical area of production is justified if it constitutes a necessary and proportionate means to safeguard the quality of the product, to guarantee its origin or to ensure the verification of the specification (see by analogy: 20/05/2003, [C-108/01](#), Prosciutto di Parma, EU:C:2003:296, § 66, 69, 74 and 75; and 19/12/2018, [C-367/17](#), Schwarzwälder Schinken, EU:C:2018:1025, § 26, 33 and 36).

The product-specific justifications should be stated in the single document. The justification should not be general but rather it must focus on the product in question and should explain the reasons for which such restrictions are necessary.

Example:

‘Venus Porcelain’ is characterised by its extremely thin thickness, which makes it unique but also extremely fragile. It requires specific protection from possible breakage caused by non-specialised and inadequate packaging in facilities other than the production facilities. Therefore, each porcelain piece must be packed in an individual sealed box together with antishock elements within the production facilities or in premises annexed thereto. This guarantees that the porcelain piece is delivered to the reseller or the final consumer in perfect condition, safeguarding its integrity. This cannot be guaranteed if it is packed in bulk on other premises. It also avoids any counterfeiting during transport or when it is packed without supervision in other facilities, which would compromise its integrity, quality and origin.

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Part A

***Geographical indications for craft and
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Section 7

Rules on labelling

Article 3(3) CIGIR	Article 29 CIGI IR
Article 9 CIGIR	Annex I CIGI IR
Article 48 CIGIR	

1 Union symbol



Figure 1:

The Union symbol established for 'protected geographical indications' by way of Article 34 of [Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2025/26](#) also applies to CIGI products entered in the [Union register](#). It may be used in any of the official languages of the EU. When used, it must be in the same field of vision as the GI that it accompanies (name as registered).

It is up to the applicant to decide whether the use of the Union symbol is mandatory for a given GI, and any such requirement must be reflected in the product specification and the single document. Producers may use the Union symbol on products that comply with the relevant product specification, independently of any other logo or trade mark. However, while the product specification or single document may require the use of the symbol on products, the Union symbol itself cannot be incorporated into any specific GI logo and therefore cannot appear as part of producers' symbols.

2 The indication 'protected geographical indication' and its abbreviation 'PGI'

The indication 'protected geographical indication' as well as its abbreviation 'PGI' may appear on the labelling of products designated by a GI and may be used in any of the official languages of the EU.

It is left to the applicant to decide on whether the use of the indication 'protected geographical indication' as well as the abbreviation 'PGI' is mandatory for the respective GI. If mandatory, this needs to be reflected in the product specification and the single document.

3 Producers' specific obligations on labelling

[Article 3\(3\) CIGIR](#)

[Article 9\(1\)\(h\) CIGIR](#)

[Article 10\(1\)\(c\) CIGIR](#)

[Article 48\(6\) CIGIR](#)

The product specification and single document should provide information on the respective GI product's specific labelling rules as imposed by the applicant.

Any of the following may also appear on the labelling of the product:

- depictions of the geographical area of origin, as referred to in the product specification; and
- text, graphics, or symbols referring to the Member State or the region where that geographical area of origin is.

In contrast, the description of general and/or mandatory national or EU-level labelling rules should be avoided in the product specification and single document. Under [Article 3\(3\) CIGIR](#), the registration of the GI does not impact producers' obligations in this regard:

Registration and protection of geographical indications under this Regulation are without prejudice to the obligation of producers to comply with Union law, in particular relating to the placing of products on the market, product labelling, product safety, consumer protection and market surveillance.

3.1 Specific logo

It is up to the applicant to decide whether to impose the use of a specific logo.

If the product specification envisages the use of a mandatory logo, this logo should be reproduced in the product specification and the single document.

In this case, that specific logo must be kept freely available for all producers complying with the product specification.

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***Geographical indications for craft and
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Section 8

Link

Article 1 CIGIR Article 6 CIGIR Article 9(1)(d) CIGIR Article 10(1)(e) CIGIR Annex II CIGIR	Article 8(2) CIGIR
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1 Identification of the basis for the link

The description of the link between a given quality, the reputation or other characteristics of the product and its geographical origin is the core justification for registering a name as a GI. The 'Link with the geographical area' is the most important section of the product specification and the single document: it is the essence of the justification for creating intellectual property rights for the name. The link shows that the name is not merely a vague indication of provenance. Rather, the name refers to a specific product that has an intrinsic connection with its geographical origin, namely that its quality, reputation or other characteristics are essentially attributable to its geographical origin.

The causal link should be easily identifiable, e.g. *'reputation of the specific product coming from the area', or 'product characteristics due to the geographical origin, either intended as natural factors or as know-how and human factors'*.

The link section of the product specification and the single document for a PGI should start by explicitly indicating whether the link is based on a given quality, reputation or other characteristics, or on more than one of these factors. The development of the reasoning in the section on the link should be consistent with this statement, that is, the information must be provided only with respect to such identified relevant factor(s). Information not in support of said factors would be irrelevant.

Following the indication of the basis for the link at the beginning of the section, it is recommended that the link section follow a clear and coherent structure indicating:

- the characteristics of the product;
- the relevant factors (natural/human) or reputation, and evidence in support; and
- the causal relationship between the characteristics and the relevant factors (natural/human) or reputation.

2 Identification of the quality, reputation, or other characteristics of the product as its unique specificity

The objective characteristics (quality, reputation, or other characteristics) that make the product different from other products of the same kind should be clearly identified

and summarised within the single document (detailed description to be provided in the product specification). If the name is only an indication of provenance and is essentially describing any product, without any characteristics that are attributable to a specific geographical area or origin, it cannot qualify as a GI. There has to be an element of specificity to be eligible for a GI.

The concept of 'other characteristics' is wide; it includes all features of the product that do not fall within the concept of 'quality'. To assess the compliance with the CIGIR, the applicant should consider the following means to prove the link with the geographical area based on quality, reputation, and other characteristics:

- **Quality or other characteristics:** the description should focus on human factors, and, whenever relevant, on natural factors. The characteristics of the product referred to should be objective characteristics aimed at establishing the distinctiveness of the product rather than general statements on the quality of that product. The information must be coherent and supported by data mentioned in the single document under 'Description of the product designated by the name'.
- **Reputation:** the specificity of the product may be shown by identifying and describing the reputation of the product marketed under the name to be registered, providing precise elements. This should include characteristics of the geographical factors (human or natural, or a combination of those factors) that are relevant for the current/existing reputation and relevant historical information that has built the reputation of the product specificity. General historical references are not sufficient per se.

3 Identification of the characteristics of the geographical origin

The relevant characteristics of the geographical origin (human factors, natural factors), giving rise to the specificities of the product, should be identified in the product specification and summarised in the single document.

3.1 GI based on quality or other characteristics

Where an application for a GI is based on the quality of the product or other characteristics, the description should focus on human factors and, if relevant, on natural factors.

- **Human factors** are those specific and particular skills (know-how) of the local producers present in the geographical area that influence/generate the specificity of the product. On the contrary, regular production skills or methods that are common to products of the same kind are not sufficient. Therefore it is necessary to demonstrate, inter alia:
 - Local tradition and inter-generational transmission;
 - Unique technique or processing methods;

- Differences compared to standard industry methods.
- **Natural factors** are those characteristics of the geographical area (e.g. soil, topography, rainfall, exposure, altitude and climatic conditions, geology) that have a direct impact on the specificity of the product.

If reputation is not claimed as the basis for the link (see [paragraph 8.3.2, GI based on reputation](#)), references to the reputation within the description of the link will not be considered a factor to be assessed, as the only important information will be what is provided on the human and natural factors justifying the link with the quality or other characteristics. Nevertheless, the applicant is not prevented from including (i) reputational information to show a name is used and recognised in the marketplace, or (ii) objective general historical references (in this case, it being acceptable on account of it having a reputation is not the basis on which the GI is being applied for). In any event, bearing in mind the word limit of the single document, it is recommended to keep these short and to include these only after the relevant necessary information has been presented.

3.2 GI based on reputation

If the application for a GI is based on reputation, it is important that such reputation is proven in reference to the name seeking registration, and that such reputation exists at the time of submission of the application. Description of this reputation may include characteristics of the geographical factors (human or natural, or a combination of those factors), which are relevant for the existing reputation, and may include the relevant historical information that built the reputation of the product specificity.

General historical references are not sufficient per se. However, they may help in describing the background of the reputation. All this information may be maintained, but in the single document it should be summarised and placed after the relevant information (more extensive information should be left for the product specification).

There are no legal requirements as to the territorial extent of reputation. In practice, it is accepted if reputation is shown at least in the defined geographical area, that is, the area of production (see the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 5, Geographical area](#)). Therefore, local reputation is sufficient, provided that it is stable and supported by evidence without the need to prove national or Union-wide reputation. Reputation can be demonstrated by the following means:

- Press cuttings, reference books, awards, special mentions in specialised publications, as well as online publications, etc. can be the best ways to illustrate the link and to show that the reputation of the product is linked to the name and is attributable to the geographical area. At least the name of the publication and the date of publication should be given in text form, as images and screenshots cannot be inserted in this section.

- Extracts of the text published online and data accompanied with the source, may be provided in the supporting documents and verified at the time of the submission of the application.
- Information stemming from schemes for national specific protection of geographical indications for craft and industrial products. For example, the elements of reputation that were considered for the registration of the name at the national level could be integrated in the single document.

Extended information including the supporting documents is to be provided in the product specification or in the accompanying documentation and summarised in the single document.

Conversely, the following means of evidence should be avoided because it will not be accepted as proof of reputation.

- References to websites, hyperlinks and information on the number of internet search engine (e.g. Google) hits are not acceptable. This is because hyperlinks would deprive the single document of its standalone character, and the content of a website may change or be removed from the internet.
- Self-generated publicity about possible registration as a GI in the EU.
- References to other schemes (such as trade marks, organic/eco-friendly production schemes), as the exact scope of the scheme is not always known and the conformity/adherence to the scheme is not static and may change with time.
- In general, when reputation is supported by very subjective and very limited sources of evidence (This is not to be confused with existing local reputation, in geographical terms, which is sufficient. Limited sources of evidence refer to occasional, sporadic references to reputation).

4 The product's given quality, reputation or other characteristics are essentially attributable to its geographical origin (causal link)

The proof of quality, reputation or other characteristics is not sufficient on its own if no link with the product and the area is also established.

Therefore, it is essential that the product specification and single document provide a thorough and coherent explanation on the causal link. For this purpose, a summary and explanation on how the specificities of the defined geographical area affect the final product by having a direct impact on the specificities of the product (given quality, reputation or other characteristic) is crucial.

The causal link is the relationship between the specificities of the defined geographical area that have a direct impact on the specificities of the product, which is its given quality, reputation or other characteristic.

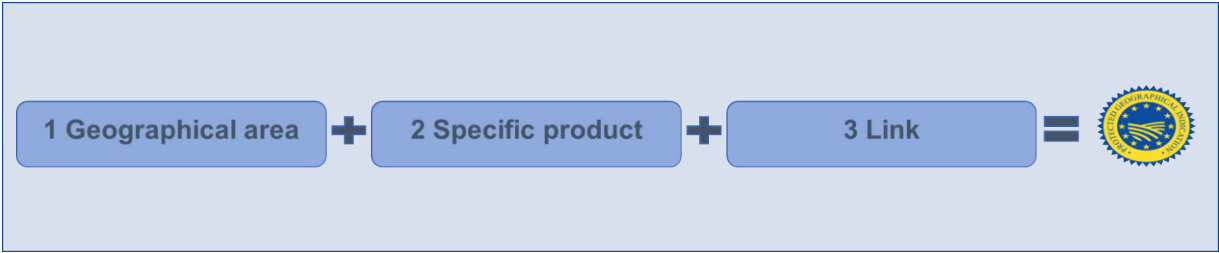


Figure 2:

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Part B

Organisation of the Office

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Part B

Organisation of the Office

Section 1

Geographical Indications Division

Article 34 CIGIR	Article 14(6) and (7) CIGI IR Article 16(9) and (10) CIGI IR
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The Geographical Indications Division (GIs Division) is established within the Office. It is responsible for taking decisions in relation to:

1. applications for registration of a GI for craft and industrial products;
2. requests for amendment of the product specification;
3. oppositions to an application or to a request for amendment of the product specification;
4. entries in the [Union register](#) of GIs for craft and industrial products;
5. requests for cancellation of a GI for craft and industrial products.

Where an opposition has been filed, a decision on registration will be taken by the GIs Division in three-member panels, where at least one member is legally qualified. The same set-up applies to cancellation decisions.

All other decisions (i.e. points 1, 2 and 4 above) are taken by a single member of the GIs Division.

The decisions of the GIs Division under the CIGIR are subject to appeal before the Boards of Appeal established under [Article 165](#) EUTMR (see the Guidelines, [Part G, Appeal](#)).

The GIs Division may consult the Advisory Board during the examination, opposition, amendment or cancellation procedures.

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Organisation of the Office

Section 2

Advisory Board

Article 17 CIGIR	Article 14(6) and (7) CIGI IR
Article 20(6) CIGIR	Article 16(9) and (10) CIGI IR
Article 23(5) CIGIR	
Article 25(6) CIGIR	
Article 32(7) CIGIR	
Article 33(5) CIGIR	
Article 35 CIGIR	
Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Board	

1 Composition

The Advisory Board is composed of one representative from each Member State and one representative from the European Commission, and their respective alternates. The Advisory Board can invite experts in GIs, or in the product category concerned, to its meetings, which includes representatives of regions and academia.

2 Role

The Advisory Board is to support the Office during the exercise of its tasks and provide necessary knowledge and expertise concerning certain products, sectors and local circumstances.

The Advisory Board's role is threefold and consists in:

1. being consulted on horizontal matters (such as assessing quality criteria on how to establish the reputation of geographical indications, on how to determine the generic nature of names, and on how to assess the risk of confusing consumers);
2. providing an expert opinion in specific GI applications when requested by the GIs Division or the Boards of Appeal, or at the request of the European Commission; and
3. providing a forum for cooperation for the Member States, the European Commission, and the Office, to share best practices with a view to promoting the efficiency of national procedures.

The Advisory Board may be consulted on questions concerning an application, opposition, amendment or cancellation of a geographical indication for craft and industrial products by the GIs Division. When working on a particular GI application, the Advisory Board will deliver its opinion in a panel of three members within four months of the date of receipt of the request from the GIs Division or the European Commission.

The Advisory Board may also be consulted in the course of the appeal procedure by the Boards of Appeal, (see the Guidelines, [Part G, Appeal](#)) on their own initiative or upon a written, reasoned request of a party.

Opinions delivered by the Advisory Board are not binding on either the GIs Division or on the Boards of Appeal.

For further information on the composition and functions of the Advisory Board see the [Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Board](#). The list of members can be found [here](#).

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Part B

Organisation of the Office

Section 3

Boards of Appeal

Article 33 CIGIR Article 36 CIGIR Rules of Procedure of the Boards of Appeal	Articles 3-11 CIGI DR
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The Boards of Appeal of the Office established under [Article 165](#) EUTMR are competent for deciding on appeals against decisions adopted by the Office in the course of CIGI proceedings. For further information on appeals see the Guidelines, [Part G, Appeal](#).

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Part C

***Means of communication, translation
obligation, time limits, and data protection***

***GUIDELINES FOR EXAMINATION OF
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Part C

***Means of communication, translation
obligation, time limits, and data protection***

Section 1

Means of communication

Article 67 CIGIR	Articles 5, 38 and 39 CIGI IR
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In proceedings before the EUIPO relating to CIGIs, communications addressed to the Office, including the filing of applications, and notifications issued by the Office, must be submitted through [Gportal](#), the e-filing tool, which is accessible in all official languages of the EU.

In procedures relating to the recognition of existing/established GIs under [Article 70\(2\) CIGIR](#) (see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 5, Recognition of existing/established GIs](#)), the obligation of informing the Office may also be fulfilled through its dedicated functional mailbox: EUIPO_GIs@euipo.europa.eu

This is the accepted means of electronic communication with the Office for CIGIs. It is a secure electronic communications platform maintained by the Office. It is easily accessible in machine-readable and commonly used formats. [Gportal](#) enables users to submit applications and other documents, to receive notifications and documents sent by the Office, to reply to these notifications, and to perform other actions.

Where a communication received through [Gportal](#) is incomplete or illegible, or where the Office has reasonable doubts as to the accuracy of the transmission, the Office will inform the sender accordingly and will invite the sender, within a period to be specified by the Office, to resubmit the original. According to [Article 13 CIGI DR](#), the Office will specify a time limit that is no shorter than one month and no longer than six months. Where that request is complied with within the period specified, the date of the original filing or submission will be preserved.

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Part C

***Means of communication, translation
obligation, time limits, and data protection***

Section 2

Translation obligation

Article 3(3) CIGI DR	Article 16(5) CIGI IR
Article 4(3) CIGI DR	Article 17(4) CIGI IR
Article 6(3), (5) and (7) CIGI DR	Article 40 CIGI IR
Article 7(4), (5) and (6) CIGI DR	
Article 8(4), (5), (8) and (9) CIGI DR	
Article 10 CIGI DR	

The language in which the first procedural step is undertaken by a party before the Office will be the language of communication with that respective party (the parties can choose any of the official EU languages). For the competent authorities and the single point of contact of the Member States, it will be their respective official EU language if only one official language pertains to that Member State. Where a Member State has more than one co-official EU language, the Member State must indicate the preferred language of communication to the EUIPO in its first communication with it. In the case of the competent authorities from third countries, the language of communication with the Office will be the EU language that they first choose to communicate with the EUIPO in.

The GIs Division or the Boards of Appeal are obliged to provide verified machine translations of the documents being exchanged with the parties, the competent authorities, and the single point of contact.

1 Translation exemption

The competent authority or the single point of contact of a Member State may request that the GIs Division or the Boards of Appeal refrain from providing the translations mentioned in the previous paragraph. That request should be sent to EUIPO_GIs@euipo.europa.eu by **1 May 2026**.

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Part C

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Section 3

Time limits

Time limits before the Office are an essential tool for conducting orderly and reasonably swift proceedings. They can be divided into two categories:

- those set by the [CIGIR](#), [CIGI DR](#) and [CIGI IR](#), which cannot be extended;
- those specified by the Office, which can be extended under certain circumstances.

1 Length of the time limits specified by the Office

With the exception of the time limits expressly specified in the [CIGIR](#), [CIGI DR](#) or [CIGI IR](#), the time limits specified by the Office may not be less than one month or longer than six months.

2 Expiry of time limits

The calculation of a time limit starts on the day following the day on which the ‘relevant event’ occurred.

Where the Office sets a time limit in a notification indicating a time limit in terms of days, weeks or months, the ‘relevant event’ is the date on which the document is notified or deemed notified. As all notifications in CIGI proceedings are issued by electronic means, it is deemed that they have been notified on the fifth calendar day following the day on which the document is placed in the account holder’s inbox.

Where a time limit is expressed in months, it will expire on the same day in the relevant subsequent month as the day on which the ‘relevant event’ occurred.

It is immaterial whether the ‘relevant event’ occurred on a working day, a holiday or a Sunday; this is only relevant when it comes to the expiry of the time limit.

Where the relevant subsequent month does not have a day with the same number, the time limit in question will expire on the last day of that month. A two-month time limit specified in a notification on 31 July will therefore expire on 30 September.

The same applies to time limits expressed in weeks or years.

Any time limit will be deemed to expire at midnight on the final day (local time in Alicante, Spain).

A time limit that expires on a day on which the Office is not open (Saturdays, Sundays and holidays) will be extended to the first working day thereafter. For this purpose, the Executive Director of the Office determines the days on which the Office is closed before the start of each calendar year.

In the event of an interruption of electronic communication, including an interruption of the Office’s connection to authorised electronic means of communication, any time limit that expires during that period will be extended to the first working day after the period of interruption. These periods will be determined by the Executive Director of the Office; the extension will apply to all parties to the proceedings.

An interruption is defined as electronic communication (including all backup options) being unavailable for at least four consecutive hours within, or commencing within, Office working hours on the same day. Parties should be wary, therefore, of filing submissions on the last day of a time limit, especially after Office working hours.

For the sake of sound administration, in the event of an exceptional occurrence (strike, natural disaster, etc.) which interrupts or interferes with the proper communication between the parties and the Office, time limits may be extended for a period determined by the Executive Director of the Office.

3 Extension of time limits specified by the Office

Time limits specified by the Office may be extended as explained below.

In non-adversarial proceedings before the Office, if a request for an extension is made before the time limit expires, then a further period should be allowed, depending on the circumstances of the case, of not less than one month and not exceeding six months.

In adversarial proceedings before the Office, as a general rule, the first request for an extension that is received in time will be considered appropriate and will be granted for a period equal to the original term (or less if requested). However, any subsequent request for an extension of the same time limit will be refused unless the party requesting it can explain and justify the 'exceptional circumstances' that (a) prevented it from carrying out the required action during the previous two periods (i.e. the original time limit plus the first extension) and (b) still prevent the requester from carrying it out, so that more time is needed.

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Part C

***Means of communication, translation
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Section 4

Data protection

[Article 5 CIGIR](#)

[Article 31 CIGIR](#)

Within the framework of the CIGIR, in the public interest, Member State authorities, the European Commission, and the Office, may need to process personal data to perform the assigned tasks. This processing is required where it is necessary to identify applicants in a registration, amendment or cancellation procedure, to identify opponents in an opposition procedure, or to identify the beneficiaries of a transitional period granted to derogate from the protection of a registered name.

In the course of the procedures under the CIGIR, any processing and making public of personal data received should respect fundamental rights, including the right to respect for one's private and family life and the right to the protection of personal data under Articles 7 and 8 of the [Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union](#).

The [EU Data Protection Regulation](#) ('EUDPR') therefore establishes certain obligations on the European Commission, and the Office, who are considered controllers to determine the purposes and means of the personal data processing in the procedures under the CIGIR.

When filling out an application through [GIportal](#), prior to including any data, the applicant will be informed through a Privacy Statement of the relevant data protection rules. To the extent possible, the contact details of the applicant group / authority in charge of controls / control body, should not contain any personal data, but only 'institutional' contacts (name of the office; a functional mailbox, etc).

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Part D

GI Procedures

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Part D

GI Procedures

Section 1

Type of procedures

The CIGI legislation regulates the procedures for registration, including application, opposition⁹ and notice of comments¹⁰, amendment of the product specification¹¹, cancellation of the registration¹², and appeal¹³.

There are three different types of registration procedure available depending on where the GI originates from:

- a **standard registration procedure**, which comprises two phases: one at the Member State level ('national phase') (see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 2, Standard registration procedure, 2 National phase](#)) and another one at the EU level ('Union phase') (see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 2, Standard registration procedure, 3 Union phase](#));
- a **direct registration procedure**, which is carried out only at the EU level (see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 3, Direct registration procedure](#)) and is not preceded by a national phase at the Member State level; seven Member States requested and obtained a derogation from appointing a national competent authority and from conducting the national phase (Denmark, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Finland, and Sweden); or
- a **procedure for registration of GIs originating in third countries** (not applicable to GIs protected in the EU under the Geneva Act or under any other international agreement) (see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 4, Registration procedure for GIs originating in a third country](#)).

In addition, a fourth type of temporary procedure is envisaged for the recognition of GIs already existing/established in the Member States at the national level (see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 5, Recognition of existing/established GIs](#)).

⁹ See the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 2, Standard registration procedure, 3 Union phase, paragraph 3.11 Opposition](#); the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 3, Direct registration procedure, 10 Opposition](#); and the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 4, Registration procedure for GIs originating in a third country, 2 Union phase, paragraph 2.9 Opposition](#).

¹⁰ See the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 2, Standard registration procedure, 3 Union phase, paragraph 3.12 Notice of comments](#); the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 3, Direct registration procedure, 11 Notice of comments](#); and the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 4, Registration procedure for GIs originating in a third country, 2 Union phase, paragraph 2.10 Notice of comments](#).

¹¹ See the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 2, Standard registration procedure, 3 Union phase, paragraph 3.13 Amendments](#); the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 3, Direct registration procedure, 12 Amendments](#); and the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 4, Registration procedure for GIs originating in a third country, 2 Union phase, paragraph 2.11 Amendments](#).

¹² See the Guidelines, [Part E, Cancellation](#).

¹³ See the Guidelines, [Part G, Appeal](#).

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Part D

GI Procedures

Section 2

Standard registration procedure

[Articles 12 to 33 CIGIR](#)

The CIGIR obliges Member States to designate a national competent authority to be in charge of the first step of the registration procedure, that is, the national phase ([Article 12 CIGIR](#)). The applications for registration are submitted by the applicant directly to the competent authority of the Member State in which the product originates. Once the national phase is successfully completed, the Member State's competent authority will submit the application to the Office, initiating the Union phase of the registration. A Union-level decision on registration may only be taken once the Member State concerned has verified that the application is compliant. The national authorities, having detailed knowledge of the particular circumstances of the product and territory, are best placed to carry out this initial assessment, making the national phase an essential stage of the overall procedure. Only after this verification has been completed can the file be forwarded to the Union authorities (see by analogy 21/02/2024, [T-361/21](#), Halloumi, EU:T:2024:99, § 64).

1 Applicant

[Article 8 CIGIR](#)

[Article 1 CIGI DR](#)

[Article 3 CIGI IR](#)

As a general rule, applications for CIGIs must be filed by producer groups. However, under certain conditions, a single producer, a local or regional authority, or a private entity may also apply for the registration of an EU CIGI.

1.1 Producer group

[Article 8\(1\) CIGIR](#)

[Article 1 CIGI DR](#)

[Article 45\(1\) CIGIR](#)

A producer group means any association, irrespective of its legal form, mainly composed of producers working with the same product.

Member States may provide that public bodies, and other stakeholders such as consumer groups, retailers and suppliers (operators and representatives of economic activities linked to one of the stages of the supply chain of products designated by a GI), can also participate in the work of a producer group.

1.2 Single producer

Article 8(2) CIGIR	Article 3 CIGI IR
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As an exception to the general rule, a single producer can apply for a GI if the following conditions are met:

1. the person concerned is the only producer in a given geographical area willing to submit an application for the registration of a name as a GI; for this exception to materialise, it is not necessary that they are the only producer of the given product, it suffices that they are the only one willing to submit the application; no evidence is requested that other producers refused to join the applicant in filing the application; and
2. the geographical area concerned is defined without reference to private property boundaries (i.e. the land or workshop owned) and has characteristics that differ appreciably from those of neighbouring areas, or the characteristics of the product are different from the characteristics of products produced in neighbouring geographical areas.

Explanations and evidence to prove these conditions must be provided ([Article 3\(1\) CIGI IR](#)).

1.3 Local or regional authority or private entity

Article 8(4) CIGIR	Article 1(4) CIGI DR
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As a further exception, the CIGIR lays down that:

- a local or regional authority designated by a Member State; or
- a private entity designated by a Member State;

can be designated to act as an applicant for a GI. In such cases, the application should state the reasons for this designation. In such cases, the application must be accompanied by a reasoned justification.

The justification must clearly identify the reasons for this designation and indicate the national law or administrative decision on the designation. Therefore, it must be precise and expressly indicate that, for example, 'entity XYZ' has been designated to file a CIGI application for the 'name123' in relation to 'product ABC'. Even if the same entity might be designated to file more than one GI application, a justification for that designation must be specific to each individual application ([Article 1\(4\) CIGI DR](#)). A general justification designating 'entity XYZ' as entitled to file CIGI applications according to [Article 8\(4\) CIGIR](#), would not be sufficient.

1.4 Professional assistance

Representation before the EUIPO is not a requisite for filing an application for a geographical indication for craft and industrial products.

However, applicants may decide to enlist the assistance of a professional. In these cases, the professional will enter the applicant's name, address and telephone number in the application. If email alerts generated by [GIportal](#) are to be received by the professional, the email address to be entered should be that of the professional.

2 National phase

[Articles 12-16 CIGIR](#)

The procedure starts with the filing of an application (see the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 2, Application](#)) to the competent authority of the Member State (see [paragraph 2.1 National competent authority](#)) where the product originates. Examination at the Member State level is governed by national laws (i.e. the applicant should check the applicable rules directly with the national competent authority). After examination at the Member State level, which ensures compliance of the application with the CIGIR requirements, the application is published for national opposition purposes. Any person with a legitimate interest, and who is established or resident in the Member State in charge of this phase, has at least two months within which they can oppose the registration of the GI, and the competent authority is tasked with assessing this opposition.

If the competent authority takes a favourable decision regarding the GI application, it will submit it to the Office without undue delay. This submission will trigger the Union phase of the registration procedure (see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 2, Standard registration procedure, 3 Union phase](#)).

2.1 National competent authority

[Articles 12-16 CIGIR](#)

[Article 21\(a\) CIGIR](#)

[Article 22\(1\) and \(3\) CIGIR](#)

[Article 6\(2\) CIGIR](#)

Member States had until 1 December 2025 to appoint a competent authority for the national phase of the procedure for registration ([Article 12\(1\) CIGIR](#)) and, by

2 December 2025, they were to provide the Office with the contact details of a contact point for technical communications ([Article 38\(5\) CIGI IR](#)).

The national competent authority is responsible for the national phase of the procedure regarding¹⁴:

1. the application for registration of CIGIs ([Article 12\(1\) CIGIR](#)), including opposition;
2. any applications for amendments to the product specification ([Article 12\(1\) CIGIR](#)); and
3. any cancellation requests ([Article 12\(1\) CIGIR](#)) of the registered GIs (see the Guidelines, [Part E, Cancellation](#)).

The Office has published the [list of the national competent authorities](#) in the EU.

The national competent authority has autonomous decision-making power during the national phase of the procedure (Court of Justice, judgment of 21/02/2024, in case [T-361/21](#), Halloumi, EU:T:2024:99, § 66).

The relevant tasks of the national competent authority during the **national phase** are:

- assistance in the preparation of the single document, at the request of the applicant;
- examination of the application ([Article 14 CIGIR](#)), and conducting a national opposition procedure ([Article 15 CIGIR](#));
- taking a decision closing the national phase ([Article 16\(1\) CIGIR](#));
- making the decision publicly available and publishing the product specification electronically ([Article 16\(2\) CIGIR](#)).

The national competent authority during the **Union phase** must:

- submit the application to the Office using [GIportal](#) ([Article 22\(6\) CIGIR](#)) where the decision closing the national phase is favourable (i.e. where the competent authority finds that the requirements of the CIGIR are met);
- inform the Office of any Member State-level administrative and judicial proceedings against the competent authority's decision that may affect the registration of a GI at the EU level ([Article 24\(1\) CIGIR](#));
- provide any supplementary information requested by the Office ([Article 23\(4\) CIGIR](#));
- complete or correct the application where the Office has identified a deficiency ([Article 23\(6\) CIGIR](#));
- ensure that the single document is a faithful summary of the product specification and that there is no substantial divergence between the two ([Article 10\(1\) CIGI IR](#)).

In addition, every time there is a substantive change in the product specification during the application procedure, the competent authority of the Member State has to update the product specification and ensure that the reference to the electronic publication of the product specification leads to its updated version. Additionally, any change in the

¹⁴ [Article 12\(2\) CIGIR](#) allows for two or more Member States to agree that the competent authority of one of those Member States will also be responsible, on a permanent basis, for the national phase procedures of the other Member State(s). This includes the submission of the application to the Office on behalf of the other Member State(s). The deadline to inform the Commission and the Office of any cooperation agreements between Member States as described above expired on 1 December 2025 and no notification in this regard was sent to the Commission or the Office ([Article 12\(2\) CIGIR](#)).

product specification with an impact in the single document must be reflected in the single document and those changes must be communicated to the Office.

2.2 Joint applications in a cross-border geographical area

Article 8(5) CIGIR	Article 2(1) CIGI DR
Article 22(4) CIGIR	Article 6 CIGI IR

In the case of a product that originates in a cross-border geographical area, several applicants from different Member States, or from a Member State and a third country/ countries, may lodge a joint application for the registration of a GI for such a product.

The joint application must be submitted by one of the competent authorities when it only involves Member States under the standard procedure ([Article 22\(4\)\(a\) CIGIR](#)).

Where the joint application involves only the Member States under the standard registration procedure, the national phase of examination must be conducted in the respective territories of all the Member States concerned before it can be submitted to the Office. It is left for Member States to decide which competent authority will send the application to the Office.

Whenever the joint application also involves a Member State that obtained derogation from the obligation to conduct the national phase (Denmark, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Finland, Sweden) or a third country, the joint application must be submitted by the competent authority of a Member State under the standard procedure once it conducts the national phase in relation to its territory.

The joint application must include all the information and documents necessary for each applicant in accordance with the procedures applicable to them, that is, the information and documents for standard, direct or the third-country procedure, as applicable.

The Office will address any notification or decision to the competent authority that has submitted a joint application to the Office, in accordance with [Article 22\(4\) CIGIR](#) and [Article 6 CIGI IR](#).

2.3 National application fees

Member States may decide to charge fees at the national level. The applicant should check this information directly with the national competent authority.

3 Union phase

Articles 21-33 CIGIR	Article 3 CIGI DR Article 4 CIGI IR
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Once the national phase of the standard registration procedure is completed by the national competent authority with a favourable decision, it is up to that competent authority to trigger the Union phase of this procedure by submitting the application to the Office. The Office is responsible for the EU-level examination of the application.

3.1 Application

Article 11 CIGIR Article 20 CIGIR Article 23 CIGIR Article 29(1) CIGIR Annex II CIGIR Article 20 Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Board	Article 1 CIGI DR Article 14 CIGI IR Article 10(1) CIGI IR Forms (downloadable)
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The application submitted to the Office by the competent authority must contain the following ([Article 22\(1\) CIGIR](#)):

1. the single document as presented in [Annex II CIGIR](#);
2. the accompanying documentation listed in [Article 11 CIGIR](#);
3. a declaration by the competent authority (to which the application was initially submitted) confirming that the application meets the conditions for registration under the CIGIR;
4. a reference to the product specification published electronically.

For the content of the single document and the accompanying documentation see the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 2, Application](#).

‘Declaration by the competent authority’ means a statement confirming that the outcome of the national phase assessment was favourable in finding the application in compliance with the CIGIR.

‘Reference to the product specification published electronically’ refers to a valid hyperlink to the product specification as published by the competent authority on their

website. The competent authority remains responsible for the correct functioning of that hyperlink throughout the validity of the GI.

3.1.1 Joint applications in a cross-border geographical area

Article 8(5) CIGIR	Article 2(1) CIGI DR
Article 22(4) CIGIR	Article 6 CIGI IR

In the case of a joint application (see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 2, Standard registration procedure, 2 National phase, paragraph 2.2 Joint applications in cross-border geographical area](#)), the Office shall address any notification or decision to the competent authority that submitted a joint application to the Office, in accordance with [Article 22\(4\) CIGIR](#) and [Article 6 CIGI IR](#).

3.2 Application fees

Recital 70 CIGIR	Annex II CIGI IR
Article 65(3)(a) and (b) CIGIR	

The submission of a CIGI application by a competent authority of a Member State to the Office under the *standard registration procedure* **does not entail any fee**.

3.3 Application date

Article 22(1)-(3) CIGIR	Article 31(2) CIGI IR
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The date of application at the EU level is the date of submission of the application to the Office through [GIportal](#) and, therefore, the date taken into account for establishing priority in conflicts with homonyms ([Article 43 CIGIR](#)) or trade marks ([Article 44 CIGIR](#)).

3.4 Languages of communication

Recital 69 CIGIR	Article 14 CIGI IR
Article 66 CIGIR	Article 16 CIGI IR
	Article 17 CIGI IR
	Article 25 CIGI IR

All documents and information sent to the Office in respect of the procedures under the CIGIR, must be in one of the official languages of the EU (Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Irish, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish, and Swedish).

The Office will communicate with the competent authorities or the applicant, as applicable, in the language in which the application was submitted by the competent authority. In particular, if the application is incomplete or incorrect, the Office will send its observations to the competent authority requesting it to complete or correct the application. The Office will also inform the applicant that the application will be rejected if it is not completed or corrected within the deadline set by the Office ([Article 23\(6\) CIGIR](#) and [Article 14\(3\) CIGI IR](#)).

The Office will notify the opinions of the Advisory Board to the applicant and the competent authority in the language that the application for registration or opposition was submitted in.

3.5 Examination by the Office

The Office is entrusted with the examination of:

1. applications for registration of a CIGI submitted by a national competent authority ([Article 21\(1\)\(a\) CIGIR](#)), including opposition procedures at the EU level ([Article 25 CIGIR](#));
2. requests for approval of Union amendments ([Article 31\(3\)\(4\) CIGIR](#)) to the product specification of a registered GI;
3. publication of standard amendments ([Article 31\(10\) CIGIR](#)), approved by a competent authority, in the Union register.

The Office will rely on the veracity of statements of facts contained in the application and will not require documentary proof or other evidence where there are no reasonable grounds for doubt as to their veracity.

The Office will check the consistency of the application and verify whether the facts and evidence provided could *prima facie* lead to the same conclusion as made by the national competent authority.

However, when examining an application, the Office is not bound or limited in any way by the initial scrutiny carried out by the competent authorities at the Member State level. Applications for registration must be scrutinised, by both the national competent authorities and the Office, using appropriate means, the nature and scope of which are for the Office to assess. The Office is to check whether applications for registration are compliant and meet the conditions laid down in the CIGIR. The Office has a margin of independent discretion as regards its decision to register a name as a GI, and the scrutiny of the conditions for registration is not limited by the initial scrutiny carried out by the national competent authorities (see by analogy 04/10/2024, [C-579/23 P](#), ‘Jambon sec de l’Île de Beauté’ (PGI), ‘Lonzo de l’Île de Beauté’ (PGI), ‘Coppa de l’Île de Beauté’ (PGI), EU:C:2024:832, § 34-38).

However, the Office has limited, if any, discretion as regards **the assessment of the legality of the documents constituting the file** in relation to the application for registration gathered by the national competent authorities (see by analogy 04/10/2024, [C-579/23 P](#), ‘Jambon sec de l’Île de Beauté’ (PGI), ‘Lonzo de l’Île de Beauté’ (PGI), ‘Coppa de l’Île de Beauté’ (PGI), EU:C:2024:832, § 38).

The Office may seek the advice of the Advisory Board on the basis of the CIGIR (for more information on the role of the Advisory Board see the Guidelines, [Part B, Organisation of the Office, Section 2, Advisory Board, 2 Role](#)).

When examining the application received from the competent authority, the Office will check ([Article 23\(1\) CIGIR](#)) that:

1. there are no manifest errors;
2. the information provided is complete; and
3. the single document is precise and technical in nature and in accordance with [Article 10 CIGIR](#).

For further information on the information that must be included in the single document, see the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 2, Application, 2 Single document](#).

3.5.1 Manifest errors

Examples of **manifest errors** applied to GIs:

- Regarding evidence:
 - Lack of evidence for a claim: e.g. when a link is deduced on the basis of a general description of the characteristics of the area without identifying the exact mechanism determining it.
 - Unreliable evidence: when reputation is accredited by very subjective and very limited sources.
- Regarding facts:
 - Incoherence: e.g. the product is ‘Mars red marble’ and one of the specific qualities is the particular white colour of that marble.
 - Patent errors (detectable without fact-finding): e.g. ‘on the border between France and Croatia’.

- Regarding presentation:
 - For example, stating that ‘the emeralds may be marketed as a whole or portioned in pieces’ under the *Specific rules concerning the packaging* section of the single document. As this information does not constitute a packaging requirement, it should not be included in this section; instead, it should be included in the *Description of the product* section.

3.5.2 Incomplete information

The Office will check the completeness of the information required by the CIGIR ([Article 23\(1\)\(b\) CIGIR](#)).

In that regard, the Office will check that the information provided in each section of the single document, as shown in [Annex II](#) of the CIGIR, is complete.

The Office will also check that the application contains the required accompanying documentation as provided for in [Article 11 CIGIR](#), namely:

- The name and contact details of the applicant, namely an address, a telephone number and an email address ([Article 1\(1\) CIGI DR](#)). Additionally, the applicant must state their nationality if they are a natural person ([Article 1\(3\) CIGI DR](#)).
- The name and contact details of the competent authority responsible for the controls ([Article 50\(1\) CIGIR](#)), namely an address, a telephone number and an email address ([Article 1\(1\) CIGI DR](#)).
- Where applicable, the name and contact details of the product certification body or natural person verifying compliance with the product specification to which control tasks have been delegated ([Articles 51\(5\)\(b\)](#) and [52\(1\)\(b\) CIGIR](#)), namely an address, a telephone number and an email address ([Article 1\(1\) CIGI DR](#)).
- Information concerning any limitations on the use or protection of the geographical indication, as well as any transitional measures proposed by the applicant or by the national competent authority, in particular following the examination by the national competent authority of the application and any opposition (see the Guidelines, Part D, GI procedures, Section 2, Standard registration procedure, 3 Union phase, [paragraphs 3.8-3.11](#)).
- Any other information considered appropriate by the Member State or the applicant.

In addition, the Office will check that the competent authority of the Member State that performed the national phase has issued a declaration confirming that the application meets the conditions for registration.

If any of the above mandatory documents or information is not contained in the application, a deficiency letter will be sent requesting the submission of the missing item within two months of the notification of the letter. If the deficiency is not remedied, the CIGI application will be rejected.

If the application for registration does not comply with the requirements of the CIGIR, the Office will notify the national competent authority and the applicant of the grounds for possible rejection, the deadline for correction or completion of the application, or for

the submission of comments, as well as informing them of the possible rejection of the application if it is not corrected or completed within the deadline ([Article 14\(3\) CIGI IR](#)).

3.5.3 Precise and technical nature of the single document

The single document is a summary of the product specification. A template is available as an [Annex II](#) to the CIGIR.

See also the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 2, Application, 2 Single document](#).

3.6 Length of the examination period

The examination by the Office must be carried out within six months of receipt of the application. If the examination has exceeded, or is likely to exceed, six months, the Office will inform the applicant in writing of the reasons for the delay.

If, during the examination period, the application is found to be incomplete or incorrect, or that supplementary information is required, the Office will send its observations to the competent authority concerned and request the completion or correction of the application within two months of the receipt of the observations. If the application is not completed or corrected within the deadline, it will be rejected.

3.7 Decision

3.7.1 Decision by the Office

If **no objections** to the registration are raised by the Office, or if they are remedied during the examination within the set time limits, the Office **will publish the application** for possible oppositions to be filed during the Union phase.

- where **no admissible opposition** is lodged, the Office will proceed with **registration of the GI**;
- where an **admissible opposition** is lodged but **an agreement is reached**, after checking that the agreement complies with the Union law, the Office will proceed with the **registration of the GI**; or
- where an **admissible opposition** is lodged and no agreement is reached, the Office will examine whether the opposition is well-founded and either reject the opposition and register the GI or reject the application.

In both cases, the Office's decision on the GI registration will be published in the Union register in all the official languages of the EU and a reference to that decision will be published in the OJEU ([Article 29\(6\) CIGIR](#)).

In the event of a negative decision on the examination (prior to the opening of the opposition period), the applicant will have the possibility to file an appeal before the Boards of Appeal of the Office (see the Guidelines, [Part G, Appeal](#)).

3.7.2 Decision by the Commission

As provided in [Article 30 CIGIR](#) and [Article 28 CIGI IR](#), the Commission may take over the decision-making power at any time **before the end of the registration** procedure when:

- **the registration may be contrary to public policy, or**
- **the registration or the rejection of the application may jeopardise the trade or external relations of the European Union.**

The Commission will adopt any decisions by means of **implementing acts** and will endeavour to do so **within nine months** from:

- the submission of a takeover request, or
- the notification that it is acting on its own initiative.

The implementing act will indicate that the Commission has taken over the case, the applicable grounds and the justification.

The procedure described here also applies *mutatis mutandis* to **amendment and cancellation procedures**.

3.7.2.1 Request

The Commission may act **on its own initiative**, or **at the request** of the **competent authority** of any Member State **or of the Office**.

If the **request** comes **from the competent authority** of a Member State, **or from the Office**, the request will:

- be **submitted** electronically to the **Commission's** dedicated functional **mailbox**: GROW-CIGI@ec.europa.eu,
- be **addressed to the head of the unit responsible for craft and industrial GIs in the internal market**,
- **use the form** made available online by the Office, and
- indicate the **ground for the request**, and provide a **reasoned justification**.

Within two months from the receipt of the **request**, the Commission **will inform**:

- **the Office** (via the [digital system](#)), and
- the **competent authority** of the Member State **making the request** (via email),

of its **decision** as to whether it will **take over** the power to decide. The Commission's communication will include the **grounds** and **justification**.

When acting on its own initiative, the **Commission will inform**:

- **the Office** (via the [digital system](#)), and
- the **competent authority** of the Member State where the product originates (via email),

and will provide the **grounds** and **justification**.

From the moment the request is submitted to the Commission:

- **the Office procedure is suspended** until the Commission communicates its decision,
- if the Commission decides **not** to take over, the Office will **resume** the procedure without delay.

Even when the Commission assumes the decision-making power, the Office remains responsible for **examining the file** and handling the **opposition procedure**. The Office will provide the Commission with a **draft decision** based on technical considerations.

3.7.2.2 Publications in the Union register

Within **two weeks** of being informed of the Commission's takeover, the Office will publish the following in the [Union register](#), in all the official EU languages:

- the fact that the Commission has taken over the case,
- the **grounds** invoked, and
- the **justification**.

Additionally, the implementing act, once adopted by the Commission, will be published in the Union register.

3.8 Temporary (national) protection during the Union phase

Article 18 CIGIR

Temporary national protection is only applicable to names that are subject to registration under the standard registration procedure.

With effect from the date a GI application is submitted for registration to the Office in accordance with [Article 18\(1\) CIGIR](#), the concerned Member State may grant temporary national protection to the GI in question until the date on which a decision on the application is taken at Union level or the application is withdrawn.

These temporary protection measures adopted by the Member State will produce effects exclusively at the Member State level – with no impact on the internal market or on international trade.

Where a GI application is ultimately not entered on the [Union register](#), the Member State concerned will be responsible for handling, at the Member State level, any consequences of the temporary protection it granted during the Union phase of the standard procedure, or until the application was withdrawn.

3.9 Transitional periods

[Recital 30 CIGIR](#)

[Article 28 CIGIR](#)

To allow operators whose interests are affected by the registration of a GI to continue using the name, particularly those that are unable to prevent the registration of the GI, a transitional period can be granted for a certain period of time and under certain conditions.

Two scenarios are envisaged:

1. a transitional period to use a name that is in breach of GI protection under [Article 40 CIGIR](#);
2. a transitional period granted to achieve compliance with the product specification.

3.9.1 Transitional period to use a name that is in breach of GI protection under Article 40 CIGIR

At the time of the registration of a GI under the CIGIR, the Office may grant a transitional period of up to five years ([Article 28\(1\) CIGIR](#)) to allow a continued use of the designation under which a product originating in a Member State or a third country has been marketed, where that designation consists of, or contains, a name that contravenes the protection of GIs pursuant to [Article 40 CIGIR](#).

This period will be granted if, by means of an admissible opposition (during the national phase or Union phase) against the relevant application for registration of the GI, it was shown that:

1. the registration of the GI would jeopardise the existence of an identical or similar name used in trade in the product designation; or
2. such products have been legally marketed with that name in the product designation in the national or EU territory concerned for at least five years preceding the date of the publication of the application.

The five-year transitional period mentioned above may be extended for up to a maximum of 15 years (or the Office may grant directly a transitional period of up to 15 years), where, in addition to the requirements mentioned under (1) or (2) above, it has been shown that:

1. the name was being used legally, consistently and fairly for at least 25 years before the application for the registration of the GI concerned was submitted to the Office;
2. the purpose of using the name has not, at any time, been to profit from the reputation of the name that has been registered as a GI; and
3. the consumer has not been, or could not have been, misled as to the true geographical origin of the products.

Office decisions granting or extending the transitional period will be published in the [Union register](#).

3.9.2 Transitional period granted to achieve compliance with the product specification

Member States may grant any producer of a product identified by a GI in the area concerned, a transitional period of up to 10 years, to ensure compliance with the related product specification, taking effect from the date on which the application is submitted to the Office.

Granting this period is subject to the following conditions:

- The operators concerned must have legally marketed the product in question using the name concerned continuously for at least five years preceding the lodging of the application to the competent authority of that Member State; and
- They have referred to that fact in the national opposition procedure ([Article 15 CIGIR](#)).

3.10 Notice of administrative or judicial proceedings challenging a national phase decision

Recital 28 CIGIR	Article 15 CIGIR
Article 24 CIGIR	

Following a favourable decision by the national competent authority and the submission of the application to the Office, the national phase is finalised. However, that decision can be challenged through subsequent national proceedings before the GI is entered into the [Union register](#).

Should any national administrative or judicial proceedings be initiated against the national phase decision that could affect the application for registration of the GI, the competent authority of the Member State must inform the Office without delay, as well as of the outcome of such proceedings.

This notification will trigger the suspension of the period established to examine the GI application received through the standard registration procedure (i.e. six months), where the competent authority of a Member State:

- informs the Office that the national phase decision has been invalidated at the Member State level by an immediately applicable but non-final, administrative or judicial decision; or
- requests the Office to suspend the examination because national administrative or judicial proceedings have been initiated to challenge the validity of the application.

The Office must then communicate to the GI applicant the suspension of the examination and the reasons for the delay.

Where the administrative or judicial decision is final, the competent authority of the Member State must inform the Office that the reason for the suspension no longer exists.

The competent authorities must communicate the information regarding the national administrative or judicial proceedings against the decision taken in the national phase to the Office through the [GIportal](#) in any of the official languages of the EU.

3.11 Opposition

Article 15 CIGIR	Article 16 CIGIR
Article 19 CIGIR	
Article 20 CIGIR	
Article 25 CIGIR	
Article 26 CIGIR	
Article 29 CIGIR	
Annex III CIGIR	

When the Office concludes the examination of a GI application, provided that the conditions for its registration are met, it shall publish the application in the [Union register](#) in view of possible oppositions. Pursuant to [Article 25 CIGIR](#), an opposition may be lodged with the Office within three months from the date of publication of the single document and the reference to the electronic publication of the product specification in the Union register.

An opposition may be lodged by any competent authority of a Member State or a third country, as well as a natural or legal person having a legitimate interest and who is established or resident in a third country or in another Member State.

In a *standard registration procedure*, national opponents, that is, any person having a legitimate interest and who is established or residing in the Member State that is in charge of the national phase of the registration, or who is established or residing in the Member States in which the product concerned originates, are excluded from filing an opposition at the EU level. This is because any person having a legitimate interest and who is established or residing in the Member State from which the CIGI application originates will already have had the opportunity to file an opposition to the application with the competent authority of the Member State concerned during the national phase of examination.

The applicant and the opponent shall be considered the persons who are party to the opposition.

Oppositions, containing a reasoned statement, must be submitted through [GIportal](#).

The date of submission of an opposition will be the date on which the opposition is received by the Office through [GIportal](#).

Oppositions must contain all the information requested in [Annex III](#) of CIGIR and in [Article 16\(1\) CIGI IR](#), and be based on any of the grounds contemplated in [Article 26 CIGIR](#).

The opponent is free to choose any official language of the EU for its submissions before the Office.

Opposition procedures are *inter partes* adversarial proceedings, which must be conducted with strict adherence to the principle of impartiality. This entails the Office ensuring fair, objective and unbiased treatment of all the parties involved, guaranteeing the parties' right to be heard, and that all parties are afforded an equal and effective opportunity to present arguments and submit evidence in support of their respective claims.

The Office will assess the opposition, if any, and take a decision on the registration of the GI.

3.11.1 Formalities check and admissibility of the opposition

Article 25 CIGIR Article 26 CIGIR Article 29 CIGIR Article 66 CIGIR Annex III CIGIR	Article 16 CIGI IR
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The Office will first check whether the opposition contains:

- the required information as stipulated in [Annex III](#) CIGIR form;
- an indication as to the nationality of the opponent ([Article 16\(1\)\(b\) CIGI IR](#)); and
- authorisation to the Office to notify the opposition to the applicant and to the competent authority from where the product originates ([Article 16\(1\)\(c\) CIGI IR](#)).

If **authorisation is missing**, pursuant to [Article 16\(4\) CIGI IR](#), the Office will notify the opponent of this deficiency and the opponent will have seven calendar days to complete the opposition by providing the said authorisation. If the opponent fails to complete the **opposition**, it shall be **deemed not filed** ([Article 16\(4\) CIGI IR](#)).

According to [Article 26\(1\) CIGIR](#), the opposition is admissible only if it contains a reasoned statement of opposition with all the information set out in [Annex III](#) of CIGIR.

[Annex III](#) of CIGIR requires that the following information be provided:

- the name of the product as entered in the [Union register](#);
- the number as entered in the Union register;

- the date of publication of the single document;
- the reference to the electronic publication of the product specification in the Union register;
- the opponent's contact details (name, title, address, telephone number, email address);
- the grounds for the opposition;
- information in support of the opposition (reasons and a justification for the opposition, including a statement explaining the legitimate interest of the opponent, unless the opposition is lodged by a national competent authority, in which case no statement of legitimate interest is required);
- a signature.

If the opposition does not comply with the above conditions, it will be rejected as **not admissible** ([Article 26\(3\) CIGIR](#)).

If the opposition is received by the Office outside the three-month opposition period, the Office will notify the opponent and the opposition will be **deemed not filed** ([Article 16\(4\) CIGIR](#)).

3.11.1.1 Reasoned statement of opposition

The reasoned statement of opposition must identify the CIGI application against which the opposition is filed by stating its name, the number in the [Union register](#) and the date of publication. Furthermore, it must indicate the contact details of the opponent.

It must also state the grounds for the opposition and provide duly substantiated reasons and justification for the opposition, including a statement of legitimate interest, e.g. being an operator using the name in the course of trade. If relevant, it may be accompanied by supporting documents.

If the opposition is lodged by national competent authorities, there is no need to specify the legitimate interest.

Finally, the reasoned statement of opposition should be signed and dated. The Office considers that indication of the name in the relevant field in [GIportal](#) is equivalent to a signature.

3.11.2 Identification of the grounds for opposition

The grounds on which an opposition may be based are set out in [Article 26 CIGIR](#) and may be one or more of the following:

- the CIGI application does not meet the specific requirements for protection under the CIGIR;
- the registration of the CIGI application would be contrary to the rules concerning:
 - generic terms as set out in [Article 42 CIGIR](#) (see the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 3, Name, 4 Generic terms](#));

- homonymous geographical indications as set out in [Article 43 CIGIR](#) (see the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 3, Name, 5 Homonyms](#)); or
- conflicts between geographical indications and prior trade marks with a reputation or well-known marks that are likely to mislead the consumer as to the true identity of the product as set out in [Article 44\(2\) CIGIR](#) (see the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 3, Name, 6 Conflict with earlier trade marks](#));
- the CIGI application would jeopardise the existence of an identical or similar name used in trade or of a trade mark, or that it would jeopardise the existence of products that have been legally on the market for at least five years preceding the date of the publication of the application, provided for in [Article 22\(7\) CIGIR](#).

Intellectual property rights are governed by the principle of territoriality. Therefore, for the assessment of all the above grounds, the relevant territory is the EU and the perception of a particular term in each of its Member States; the perception of a particular term outside the EU is not relevant. As a consequence, the registration of a name as a GI within the EU is solely subject to the situation prevailing within the EU ([Article 29\(4\) CIGIR](#))¹⁵.

If the opposition is based on an earlier trade mark with a reputation or a well-known trade mark ([Article 26\(2\)\(b\) CIGIR](#), last ground), the opponent must prove the existence, validity and scope of protection of the earlier mark and submit proof of its reputation or well-known character in the EU or in a Member State. [On reputed and well-known marks see the EUIPO Guidelines for the examination of trade marks, [Part C, Opposition](#).]

If the opposition is based on the existence and use in trade of an identical or similar name, the existence of a trade mark, or the existence of products that have been legally on the market in the EU or in a Member State for at least five years preceding the date of the publication of the application ([Article 26\(2\)\(c\) CIGIR](#)), the opponent must submit evidence showing the existence and use in trade of that name, evidence of the existence, validity and scope of protection of the trade mark, or evidence of the products that have been legally on the market, as applicable.

An opposition without any indication of grounds is inadmissible.

3.11.3 Languages of communication

In the case of oppositions, these will be notified to the applicant and the competent authority of the Member State from where the product originates in the language as filed and, where relevant, it must include a translation into the official EU language in which the application was filed. The same applies to the outcome of the opposition.

Where the Advisory Board gives its opinion in opposition procedures, it will be notified to the applicant, the opponent, and the competent authority of the Member State from

¹⁵ See [Implementing regulation \(EU\) 2021/591](#), 12 April 2021, entering a name in the register of protected designations of origin and protected geographical indications ('Χαλλούμι' (Halloumi)/'Hellim' (PDO)).

where the product originates and where the opponent is established or resides. The notification will include the Advisory Board's opinion in the official EU languages of the Member States involved in the opposition.

For further information on translations, see the Guidelines, [Part C, Means of communication, translation obligation and data protection, Section 2, Translation obligation](#).

3.11.4 Consultations

Article 20 CIGIR	Article 16 CIGIR
Article 25 CIGIR	

3.11.4.1 Consultations between the parties

If the opposition is found admissible, within two months of receipt of that opposition the Office will invite the opponent and the applicant to engage in consultations. The aim of these consultations is to give the parties three months within which to agree to a friendly settlement (extendable by the Office for a maximum of three months if this is requested jointly by both the opponent and the applicant within the period of the first extension).

The three-month period will start on the date on which the Office notifies the parties of the invitation to engage in consultations through [GIportal](#).

The Office will also offer alternative dispute resolution, such as mediation, for the consultations between the applicant and the opponent, as referred to in [Article 170 EUTMR](#). Consultations will be confidential among the parties and, where mediation is run through the Mediation Centre of the Office, the mediator.

The parties must provide each other with the relevant information during the consultation.

The applicant must communicate the result of the consultations (including where these have taken place through the mediation offered by the Office) to the Office through [GIportal](#) within one month from the end of the consultation period. For this purpose, the applicant must file a '[Communication of the outcome of consultations between the parties](#)' indicating, among others, the result of the consultations, and the amendments, if any, to the product specification or the single document.

If, as a result of the consultations, the parties reach an agreement, the Office will check whether the agreement complies with EU law. If the agreement reached by the parties entails modifying the data published in accordance with [Article 23\(7\) CIGIR](#), the Office will re-examine the modified application.

The Office will also inform the competent authority of the outcome of the consultations.

At the same time, the Office will invite the competent authority of the Member State from where the product originates to indicate whether it considers it necessary to carry out an additional national opposition procedure in accordance with [Article 16\(15\) CIGI IR](#). Where an additional national opposition is being carried out, the Office will suspend the Union phase procedure until the end of the new national opposition and until the amended version of the single document and of the product specification is communicated to the Office, in view of repeating the examination as referred to in [Article 25\(8\) CIGIR](#) (see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 2, Standard registration procedure, 3 Union phase, paragraph 3.5 Examination by the Office](#)). If the application has been modified in a substantial manner but it still meets the conditions for registration, the modified application will be re-published for opposition purposes in accordance with [Article 23\(7\) CIGIR](#).

If no agreement is reached, after considering the opponent's and the applicant's observations, the Office will decide – based on the facts before it and in relation to the territory of the EU – whether to accept or reject the GI application.

In the examination of the opposition, the Office is not obliged to rule expressly on each of the arguments put forward by the opponent (see by analogy judgment of 21/02/2024, [T-361/21](#), Halloumi, EU:T:2024:99, § 79).

Following the examination of the opposition, the Office will issue a decision on the registration of the GI. That decision will be published in the [Union register](#) in all the official languages of the EU and a reference to that decision will be published in the OJEU ([Article 29\(6\) CIGIR](#)).

Any party to the opposition procedure who is adversely affected by the decision, will be entitled to submit an appeal to the Boards of Appeal of the Office (see the Guidelines, [Part G, Appeal](#)).

3.11.4.2 Advisory Board consultation

The GIs Division may at any stage of the opposition procedure consult the Advisory Board ([Article 25\(6\) CIGIR](#)). If that is the case, the parties, the competent authority or the single point of contact of the Member States and/or the competent authority of the third countries, as applicable, depending on where the parties are established or residing, will be notified through the [GIportal](#), and the three-month consultation period will be suspended ([Article 16\(9\) CIGI IR](#)).

The GIs Division will notify the Advisory Board's opinion to the parties, the competent authority or the single point of contact of the Member States where the parties are established or residing, in the official EU languages of these respective Member States. Where the party or parties are established or reside in a third country, the GIs Division will notify the Advisory Board's opinion to the competent authority of the third countries in the official EU language in which the application for registration or opposition, as applicable, was submitted ([Article 16\(10\) CIGI IR](#)).

Opinions of the Advisory Board are not binding on the GI Division.

(For more information on the Advisory Board, see the Guidelines, [Part B, Organisation of the Office, Section 2, Advisory Board](#)).

3.12 Notice of comments

Article 4(10) CIGIR	Article 17 CIGIR
Article 27 CIGIR	

The notice of comments is defined in the CIGIR as a written observation lodged with the Office indicating inaccuracies in the application or which contains additional information in relation to the application, including possible infringement of other elements of EU law, without triggering an opposition procedure.

It may be filed by the competent authority of a Member State or of a third country, or a natural or legal person having a legitimate interest and that is established or resident in another Member State or in a third country.

The submission of a notice of comments does not confer any rights on the sender, nor does the sender become a party to the procedure.

A notice of comments must be sent through GIportal within three months from the date of publication of the single document and the reference to the product specification in the [Union register](#).

It will be drawn up in accordance with the 'Notice of comments' [form](#).

The notice of comments cannot be used to put forward any of the grounds for opposition as it will not initiate, in any manner, the opposition procedure (see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 2, Standard registration procedure, 3 Union phase, paragraph 3.11.12 Identification of the grounds for opposition](#)).

The Office will communicate the notice of comments to the applicant of the GI and the competent authority of the Member State from where the product originates.

The Office will take the content of the notice of comments into consideration when deciding on the registrability of the application, except where it is unclear or obviously incorrect, or where it is sent outside the time limits specified above.

Based on the information in the notice of comments, the Office may proceed with a re-examination of the application according to [Article 23\(6\) CIGIR](#) and suspend any oppositions filed against the registration of that CIGI ([Article 17\(6\) CIGIR](#)).

3.12.1 Languages of communication

Where a notice of comments has been filed, the Office will notify the procedure to the applicant and the competent authority of the Member State from where the product originates in the same language as the notice of comments was filed in and,

where relevant, it will provide a translation into the official EU language in which the application for registration was filed ([Article 17\(4\) CIGI IR](#)).

For further information on translations, see the Guidelines, [Part C, Means of communication, translation obligation and data protection, Section 2, Translation obligation](#).

3.13 Amendments

Article 31 CIGIR	Articles 18-24 CIGI IR
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The product specification can be amended once the GI is registered.

The CIGIR establishes two types of amendments, Union and standard amendments. This distinction is important for the approval of these amendments:

- Union amendments are to be approved by the Office following the favourable assessment at the national level by the competent authority; and
- standard amendments are approved by the competent authority at the national level and are only communicated to the Office for information purposes and for publication in the [Union register](#).

3.13.1 Union amendments

Union amendments are those changes to a product specification that **require a change of a single document and which meet any of the following conditions**:

- the amendment consists of a change in the name protected as a GI, or in the use of that name;
- there is a risk that the link between the geographical area and the product would be undermined by the change; or
- the change entails restrictions on the marketing of the product.

A request for an amendment of a product specification can be made with the competent authority either by:

- the **applicant** as entered in the Union register; or
- **a producer using a registered geographical indication**.

The national phase is governed by the Member State's law for this procedure.

When requesting a Union amendment, the applicant must provide specific information to ensure the process is clear and justified. The request must include:

- the protected name;
- the Member State, third country, or region to which the geographical area belongs;
- the details identifying the applicant as either the original filer or a current producer using the GI;

- the headings of the product specification and the single document that are affected by the amendment;
- the reasons why the amendment qualifies as a Union amendment;
- the description of each proposed change along with its justification;
- an indication of any standard amendments that are inextricably linked to the Union amendment;
- an updated version of the single document reflecting the changes;
- a reference to the publication of the amended product specification;
- a declaration from the national competent authority confirming that all requirements under CIGIR have been met.

All the steps regarding the approval of a Union amendment follow the *standard registration procedure* for an application of a GI name, and both the national and Union phase of examination will have to be run, *mutatis mutandis*, including the possibility of opposing the Union amendment (see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 2, Standard registration procedure, 2 National phase](#); and the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 2, Standard registration procedure, 3 Union phase](#)).

The submission of a Union amendment request to the Office by a competent authority, following the favourable decision at the national level, must be done through [GIportal](#). A [form](#) is made available online.

If the request for a Union amendment relates to both Union and standard amendments, the Office will only examine the Union amendments.

3.13.2 Standard amendments

Standard amendments are **any other changes to a product specification that do not fall under the category of Union amendments**. They can entail e.g. a modification of a single document, or they can be limited to the changes in a product specification.

A request for an amendment of a product specification can be made with the competent authority either by:

- the **applicant** as entered in the Union register; or
- **a producer using a registered geographical indication**.

The national phase is governed by the Member State's law for this procedure.

Standard amendments are **examined exclusively by a competent authority of a Member State**. Once approved at the national level, standard amendments will be **communicated to the Office** by the competent authority. The Office will make public in the [Union register](#) the description of the standard amendment and the amended **single document in all EU languages**.

If the standard amendment did not require an amendment of the single document, the Office shall make public in the Union register, **in the language it was received in, the description of the standard amendment** ([Article 19\(6\) and \(7\) CIGI IR](#)) only.

Standard amendments **may be temporary**. This can occur when the amendments concern a temporary change in the product specification due to the imposition of mandatory sanitary measures, due to natural disasters, or adverse weather conditions recognised by the competent authorities, or on account of a man-made disaster, such as war, a threat of war or a terrorist attack.

It is important to note that **in standard amendments the role of the Office is confined to ensuring its publication in the [Union register](#)**. The Office does not review the content of the standard amendment or exercise any decision-making power in proceeding with the publication of those standard amendments. The national **competent authorities** remain responsible for the content of the standard amendment, and it is for them **to verify** that the amendment to the specification lodged with them complies with the applicable provisions, including, inter alia, ensuring that those amendments constitute standard amendments within the meaning of the applicable law (see by analogy [T-361/21](#), Halloumi, EU:T:2024:99, § 32).

The communication of the approval of a standard or a temporary amendment to the Office must be done through [GIportal](#) by a competent authority, following a favourable decision at the national level. A [form](#) that is available online provides for an overview of the information required for the communication of a standard or a temporary amendment to the Office.

***GUIDELINES FOR EXAMINATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS FOR CRAFT
AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS***

***EUROPEAN UNION
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE
(EUIPO)***

Part D

GI Procedures

Section 3

Direct registration procedure

Article 19 CIGIR Article 20 CIGIR Article 21(b) CIGIR Article 65(3) CIGIR Article 71(2) CIGIR	Annex II CIGI IR
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The direct registration procedure applies to applications where the Member State from where the product originates is exempted from setting up a national scheme for assessing the GI applications. In these cases, applicants will submit their GI applications directly to the Office and the examination (including oppositions) will be carried out by the Office, without a prior decision being taken at national level. For any technical issue relating to products and applications, the Office, during the examination, may request the assistance of the single point of contact appointed by the Member State from where the product originates or of the Advisory Board.

This procedure is permitted for any national application, request for amendment of the product specification or request for cancellation, submitted directly to the Office, coming from a Member State that has been granted a derogation from the obligation to set up a national scheme to conduct the national phase of the applications process (i.e. **Denmark, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Finland, Sweden**) ([Article 19 CIGIR](#))¹⁶.

Any applications originating from these seven Member States must be submitted directly to the Office via the direct registration procedure.

The direct registration procedure consists only of the Union phase, which is carried out by the Office with the assistance of the Member State via the 'single point of contact'.

The Office will charge a fee for the direct registration procedure. The fee amount is established in [Annex II of the CIGI IR](#) (for more information on fees, see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 3, Direct registration procedure, 3 Application, paragraph 3.2 Application fees](#)).

1 Applicant

GI applicants of a Member State that has been granted the derogation from the obligation to process applications at national level, will file their applications directly with the Office by using [GIportal](#). (For more information on who can apply for a CIGI,

¹⁶ Pursuant to [Article 19\(3\) and \(4\) CIGIR](#), the granted derogation may cease to apply if:

- the European Commission withdraws the derogation because the number of direct applications submitted to the Office substantially exceeds the estimate given by the Member State; or
- the Member State informs the European Commission in writing that it has decided to no longer avail itself of that derogation and that it has decided to instead designate a competent authority for the purposes of administering the Member State phase of the registration procedure. Such a decision cannot affect any ongoing registration procedures.

see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 2, Standard registration procedure, 1 Applicant](#)).

1.1 Professional assistance

Representation before the Office is not mandatory for filing an application for a geographical indication for craft and industrial products.

However, applicants may be assisted by a professional (see the [Guidelines, Part D, GI procedures, Section 2, Standard registration procedure, 1.4 Professional assistance](#)).

2 Single point of contact ('SPoC') as the Member State's technical support contact

Article 10(2) CIGIR	Article 14(2) and (10) CIGI IR
Article 19(5) CIGIR	Article 38(4) CIGI IR
Article 20(4)-(5) CIGIR	
Article 32(7) CIGIR	

Member States that have been granted a derogation from the national phase must appoint, by 2 December 2025 ([Article 38\(4\) CIGI IR](#)), a single point of contact ('SPoC') for any technical issues relating to applications under the direct registration procedure of a CIGI.

The Member States provide the European Commission and the Office with the [SPoC's details](#). The SPoC, who are governed by the national law of that Member State, shall be independent of the applicants and impartial, and should have the necessary expertise and local knowledge of geographical indications.

Applicants from Member States that have obtained the derogation from the national phase may reach out to the SPoC for further information.

3 Application

Article 9 CIGIR	Article 7 - 12 CIGI IR
Article 11 CIGIR	Article 1 CIGI DR
Article 22(2) CIGIR	Forms (downloadable)
Annex II CIGIR	

The application must contain the following:

1. the product specification as presented in [Article 9 CIGIR](#);
2. the single document as presented in [Annex II CIGIR](#);
3. the accompanying documentation listed in [Article 11 CIGIR](#);

(For more information on these documents, see the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 2, Application](#)).

If any of the above documents are not contained in the application, a deficiency letter will be sent to the applicant requesting the submission of the missing item within two months of the notification of the letter. If the deficiency is not remedied, the CIGI application will be rejected.

The product specification must be resubmitted to the Office whenever an update takes place. Additionally, any change in the product specification with an impact on the single document must be reflected in the single document and those changes must be communicated to the Office.

The Office, in close cooperation with the SPoC (see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 3, Direct registration procedure, 2 Single point of contact](#)), endeavours to assist the applicant in preparing the single document ([Article 10\(2\) CIGIR](#)).

3.1 Joint applications in a cross-border geographical area

Article 8(5) CIGIR	Article 2(1) CIGI DR
Article 22(4) CIGIR	Article 6 CIGI IR

In the case of a product that originates in a cross-border geographical area, several applicants from different Member States or from a Member State and a third country / third countries, may lodge a joint application to register a GI for such a product. A joint application concerning a Member State that has obtained a derogation from the obligation to conduct the national phase must be submitted to the Office by:

- the competent authority of a Member State, when some of the applicant(s) come from a Member State that conducts the national phase, i.e. standard registration procedure;
- one of the applicants, where all applicants come from Member States that have a derogation; or
- an applicant in the Member State that has a derogation, where the other applicant(s) come(s) from a third country.

The joint application must include all the information and documents necessary for each applicant in accordance with the procedures applicable to them, that is, the information and documents for standard, direct or third country procedures, as applicable.

The Office shall address any notification or decision to the competent authority that has submitted to the Office a joint application in accordance with [Article 22\(4\) CIGIR](#) and [Article 6 CIGI IR](#).

3.2 Application fees

Recital 70 CIGIR Recital 75(xv) CIGIR Article 65 CIGIR Decision No EX-25-13 of the Executive Director of the Office of 01/12/2025 on methods of payment of fees and charges	Article 30 CIGI IR Annex II CIGI IR
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A fee of EUR 1 500 will be charged by the Office for applications for registration of CIGIs submitted under the direct registration procedure.

In addition, a fee of EUR 750 will be charged by the Office for requests for amendments of the product specification.

3.2.1 Payment of fees

The specific rules on the payment of fees and charges in matters of EU CIGIs are laid down in [Article 65 CIGIR](#) and [Article 30](#) and [Annex II CIGI IR](#). The full list of fees can be also found on the [EUIPO website](#).

Fees due to the Office must be paid in euro by bank transfer to an account held by the Office within 10 calendar days from the filing of the relevant application or request. Details of these bank accounts are available on the [EUIPO website](#).

3.3 Application date

For information on the application date, see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 2, Standard registration procedure, 3 Union phase, paragraph 3.3 Application date](#).

4 Languages of communication

Communication with the applicant and the single point of contact of the respective Member State in the direct procedure examination will be in the language used to file the application before the Office. Any of the official EU languages can be used for submissions before the Office.

Oppositions will be notified to the applicant and the single point of contact in the language it was filed in and, where appropriate, the Office will include a translation into the official EU language in which the application was filed. The same applies to the outcome of the opposition.

Notices of comments will be notified to the applicant and the single point of contact in the language it was filed in and, where appropriate, the Office will provide a translation into the official EU language in which the application was filed.

Where the Advisory Board gives an opinion during the examination procedure, it will be notified to the applicant and the single point of contact in the official EU language of the respective Member State.

Where the Advisory Board gives its opinion in opposition procedures, that opinion will be notified to the applicant, the opponent, and the single point of contact from where the product originates and where the opponent is established or resides. The notification will include the opinion in the official EU languages of the Member States involved in the opposition. For further information on translations, see the Guidelines, [Part C, Means of communication, translation obligation and data protection, Section 2, Translation obligation](#).

For information on the language of communication, see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 2, Standard registration procedure, 3 Union phase, paragraph 3.4 Languages of communication](#).

5 Exchanges

Article 14 CIGIR	Article 38(1) and (2) CIGI IR
Article 20(4) CIGIR	Article 39(1) and (2) CIGI IR

Any notification on technical issues relating to the application will be addressed to both the applicant and the SPoC ([Article 20\(4\) CIGIR](#)), whereas any communication to request assistance for the examination process will solely be addressed to the SPoC ([Article 20\(5\) CIGIR](#)).

If the application for registration does not comply with the requirements of the CIGIR, the Office will notify the applicant of the grounds of possible rejection, the deadline for correction or completion of the application, or for the submission of comments, as well as informing the applicant of the possible rejection of the application if it is not corrected or completed within the deadline ([Article 14\(3\) CIGI IR](#)).

The Office will send through the [GIportal](#) to the SPoC its specific requests for clarification, indicating the specific aspects that the SPoC is to examine and/or verify and when a declaration is to be issued to verify that information ([Article 14\(10\) CIGI IR](#)).

For further information on the means of communication, see the Guidelines, [Part C, Means of communication, translation obligation and data protection, Section 1, Means of communication](#).

6 Examination by the Office

If the Office finds the application to be incomplete or incorrect, it will send its observations in that regard to the applicant and request the completion or correction of the application within two months. If the application is not completed or corrected within the deadline, it will be rejected.

The Office will cross-check the single document with the product specification to avoid possible differences.

During the examination of applications for direct registration, pursuant to [Article 20\(5\) CIGIR](#), the Office may seek the assistance of the SPoC of the relevant Member State, including in:

- examining certain specific aspects of direct applications;
- verifying information provided by the applicant in direct applications;
- issuing declarations concerning that information;
- replying to other requests of clarification made by the Office in relation to these applications.

When assisting the Office, the SPoC may consult other experts with product- and/or sector-specific knowledge.

This assistance is to be given within two months. However, the Member State may request an extension of the time limit by another two months. If, after such a period, no assistance has been provided, the examination will be suspended for up to six months during which the concerned Member State is still allowed to react. Following that term, if no reply has been received from the SPoC, the GIs Division will consult the Advisory Board before taking a final decision on the application.

7 Length of the examination period

The length of the examination by the Office in the direct registration procedure is not subject to any fixed term.

8 Decision

For information on the decision by the Office, see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 2, Standard registration procedure, paragraph 3.7 Decision](#).

9 Transitional periods

For information on the transitional periods, see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 2, Standard registration procedure, 3 Union phase, paragraph 3.9 Transitional periods](#)).

10 Opposition

When the Office concludes the examination of a GI application, provided the conditions for its registration are met, it shall publish the application in the [Union register](#) in view of possible oppositions. Pursuant to [Article 25 CIGIR](#), an opposition may be lodged with the Office within three months from the date of publication of the single document and the reference to the electronic publication of the product specification in the Union register.

For applications under the direct registration procedure, the Union opposition procedure is the only available one, and an opposition may be lodged by any competent authority of a Member State or a third country, as well as by any natural or legal person having a legitimate interest, including those established or resident in the Member State from where the product originates.

The applicant and the opponent shall be considered the parties of the opposition.

The opposition must contain an authorisation to the Office to notify the opposition to the applicant and to the single point of contact from where the product originates ([Article 16\(1\)\(c\) CIGI IR](#)), including any personal data. If the opposition does not contain the authorisation, the Office will notify the opponent of this deficiency and the opponent will have seven days to complete the opposition. If the opponent fails to complete the opposition, it shall be deemed not filed ([Article 16\(4\) CIGI IR](#)).

Oppositions must be submitted through [GIportal](#). They must contain all the information requested in [Annex III of the CIGIR](#) and in [Article 16\(1\) CIGI IR](#) and be based on any of the grounds set out in [Article 26 CIGIR](#).

The opponent is free to choose any official language of the EU for its submissions before the Office.

Opposition procedures are *inter partes* adversarial proceedings, which must be conducted with strict adherence to the principle of impartiality. This entails the Office ensuring fair, objective and unbiased treatment of all the parties involved, guaranteeing the parties' right to be heard and that each of them is afforded an equal and effective opportunity to present arguments and submit evidence in support of their respective claims.

The Office will assess the opposition, if any, and take a decision on the registration of the GI.

(For more information on the opposition procedure see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 2, Standard registration procedure, 3 Union phase, paragraph 3.11 Opposition](#)).

11 Notice of comments

The Office will communicate the notice of comments to the applicant and the single point of contact.

(For more information on the notice of comments, see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 2, Standard registration procedure, 3 Union phase, paragraph 3.12 Notice of comments](#)).

12 Amendments

As regards amendments to the product specification, where a Member State has been granted a derogation from setting up a national system/procedure, **the Office** will decide on requests for **approval of Union and standard amendments** ([Article 31\(4\) and \(5\) CIGIR](#)). Standard amendments will be examined and approved by the Office following the procedure for Union amendments, that is, for both types of amendments the procedure for registering a GI name applies mutatis mutandis.

(For more information on the amendments, see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 2, Standard registration procedure, 3 Union phase, paragraph 3.13 Amendments](#)).

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Part D

GI Procedures

***Section 4 Registration procedure for GIs
originating in a***

third country

Article 21(c) CIGIR	Article 2 CIGI DR
Article 22(3) CIGIR	Article 7(2) CIGI IR
Article 65(3) CIGIR	Annex II CIGI IR

1 Applicant

The application is filed directly with the Office by the GI applicant who is established or residing in a third country, or by the competent authority of a third country where the product originates from, using GIportal. (For more information on who can apply for a CIGI, see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 2, Standard registration procedure, 1 Applicant](#)).

1.1 Representation

Representation before the Office is not mandatory for filing an application for a geographical indication for craft and industrial products.

However, where an applicant or competent authority from a third country appoints a representative to act before the Office in CIGI procedures, proof of power of attorney must be included among the application documents (see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 4, Registration procedure for GIs originating in a third country, 2.1 Application](#)).

2 Union phase

The procedure before the Office will follow the same principles established in the CIGIR for the Union phase in the standard registration procedure (see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 2, Standard registration procedure, 3 Union phase](#)).

For the registration procedure of GIs originating in a third country, the Office will send its notifications either to the applicant or to the competent authority of the third country that submitted the application to the Office ([Article 22\(3\) CIGIR](#)).

For further information on the means of communication, see the Guidelines, [Part C, Means of communication, translation obligation, time limits and data protection, Section 1, Means of communication](#).

2.1 Application

Article 9 CIGIR Article 11 CIGIR Article 22(3) CIGIR Annex II CIGIR	Articles 7-12 CIGI IR Forms (downloadable)
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The application must contain the following:

1. the product specification as presented in [Article 9 CIGIR](#);
2. the single document as presented in [Annex II CIGIR](#);
3. the accompanying documentation listed in [Article 11 CIGIR](#);
4. legal proof of protection of the GI in the third country of origin;
5. where the applicant is represented by an agent, proof of power of attorney.

(For more information on these documents, see the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 2, Application](#)).

If any of the above documents are not contained in the application, a deficiency letter will be sent requesting the submission of the missing item within two months of the notification of the letter. If the deficiency is not remedied, the CIGI application will be rejected.

The product specification must be resubmitted to the Office whenever an update takes place. Additionally, any change in the product specification with an impact on the single document must be reflected in the single document and those changes must be communicated to the Office.

2.1.1 Joint applications in cross-border geographical area

Article 8(5) CIGIR	Article 2(1) CIGI DR Article 6 CIGI IR
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In the case of a product that originates in a cross-border geographical area, several applicants from different Member States or from a Member State and a third country / third countries may lodge a joint application to register a GI for such a product.

A joint application concerning a third country must be submitted to the Office by:

- the competent authority of a Member State, when several of the applicant(s) come from a Member State that conducts the national phase, that is, the standard registration procedure;
- an applicant in the Member State that has a derogation, where the other applicant(s) come(s) from a third country;

- one of the third-country applicants or by the competent authority of one of the third countries concerned, where the product originates in a cross-border geographical area located exclusively in more than one third country.

The joint application must include all the information and documents necessary for each applicant in accordance with the procedures applicable to them, that is, the information and documents for standard, direct or third country procedures, as applicable.

The Office shall address any notification or decision to the competent authority or applicant that submitted the joint application to the Office in accordance with [Article 22\(4\) CIGIR](#) and [Article 6\(4\) CIGI IR](#).

2.2 Application fees

Recital 70 CIGIR Article 65(3)(b) CIGIR	Annex II CIGI IR
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A fee of EUR 1 500 will be charged by the Office for applications for registration of CIGIs originating in a third country.

In addition, a fee of EUR 750 will be charged by the Office for requests for amendments of the product specification.

2.2.1 Payment of fees

The specific rules on the payment of fees and charges in matters of EU CIGIs are laid down in [Article 65 CIGIR](#) and [Article 30](#) and [Annex II CIGI IR](#). The full list of fees can be also found on the [EUIPO website](#).

Fees due to the Office must be paid in euro by bank transfer to an account held by the Office within 10 calendar days from the filing of the relevant application or request. Details of these accounts are available on the [EUIPO website](#).

2.3 Application date

For information on the application date, see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 2, Standard registration procedure, 3 Union phase, paragraph 3.3 Application date](#).

2.4 Languages of communication

For information on the language of exchanges, see the Guidelines, Part [D, GI procedures, Section 2, Standard registration procedure, 3 Union phase, paragraph 3.4 Languages of communication](#).

The communications with the applicant or the competent authority of the third country will be in the same language as the application before the Office was submitted in. Any of the official EU languages can be used for submissions before the Office.

In the case of oppositions, the opposition will be notified to the applicant or the competent authority of the third country that submitted the application to the Office in the language as filed and, where appropriate, it must include a translation into the official EU language in which the application was filed. The same applies to the outcome of the opposition.

In the case of a notice of comments, it will be notified to the applicant or the competent authority of the third country that submitted the application to the Office in the language it was filed in and, where appropriate, a translation will be provided into the official EU language in which the application was filed.

Where the Advisory Board gives an opinion during the examination procedure, it will be notified to the applicant or the competent authority of the third country that submitted the application to the Office in the official EU language that the application for registration was submitted in.

Where the Advisory Board gives its opinion in opposition procedures, the opinion will be notified to the applicant, the opponent, or the competent authority of the third country from where the product originates and where the opponent is established or resides. The notification will include the opinion in the language that the application for registration was submitted in.

For any documents submitted by third-country applicants, the Office will accept certified translations into one of the official languages of the EU.

The Office will communicate with whoever has filed the application with the Office, whether this be the competent authority or the applicant, in the language in which the application was submitted.

2.5 Examination by the Office

For information on the examination by the Office, see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 2, Standard registration procedure, 3 Union phase, paragraph 3.5 Examination by the Office](#).

2.6 Length of examination

The examination must be carried out within six months of receipt of the application. If the examination has exceeded, or is likely to exceed, six months, the Office will inform the applicant or the competent authority, depending on who filed the application with the Office, in writing, of the reasons for the delay.

If, during the examination period, the application is found to be incomplete or incorrect, the Office will send its observations to the applicant or competent authority concerned and request the completion or correction of the application within two months of receipt of the notification. If the application is not completed or corrected within the deadline, it will be rejected.

2.7 Decision

For information on the decision by the Office, see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 2, Standard registration procedure, paragraph 3.7 Decision](#).

2.8 Transitional periods

For information on the transitional periods, see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 2, Standard registration procedure, 3 Union phase, paragraph 3.9 Transitional periods](#)). This applies to an application from a third country, except for the reference to continuous use in the national opposition procedure.

2.9 Opposition

When the Office concludes the examination of a GI application, provided that the conditions for its registration are met, it shall publish the application in the [Union register](#) in view of possible oppositions. Pursuant to [Article 25 CIGIR](#) an opposition may be lodged with the Office within three months from the date of publication of the single document and the reference to the electronic publication of the product specification in the Union register.

An opposition may be lodged by any competent authority of a Member State or a third country, as well as a natural or legal person having a legitimate interest.

The applicant and the opponent shall be considered the parties of the opposition.

The opposition must contain an authorisation to the Office to notify the opposition to the applicant and to the competent authority of a third country from where the product originates and, if applicable, to the competent authority of the third country where the opponent is established or resides, including any personal data. If the opposition does not contain the authorisation, the Office will notify the opponent of this deficiency and the opponent will have seven calendar days from the filing of the opposition to

complete the opposition. If the opponent fails to complete the opposition, it shall be deemed not filed ([Article 16\(4\) CIGI IR](#)).

Oppositions must be submitted through [GIportal](#). It must contain all the information requested in [Annex III of CIGIR](#) and in [Article 16\(1\) CIGI IR](#), and must be based on any of the grounds contemplated in [Article 26 CIGIR](#).

The opponent is free to choose any official language of the EU for its submissions before the Office.

Opposition procedures are inter partes adversarial proceedings, which must be conducted with strict adherence to the principle of impartiality. This entails the Office ensuring fair, objective and unbiased treatment of all the parties involved, guaranteeing the parties' right to be heard, and that all parties are afforded an equal and effective opportunity to present arguments and submit evidence in support of their respective claims.

The Office will assess the opposition and take a decision on the registration of the GI.

(For more information on the opposition procedure see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 2, Standard registration procedure, 3 Union phase, paragraph 3.11 Opposition](#)).

2.10 Notice of comments

The Office will communicate the notice of comments to the applicant or the competent authority of the third country depending on who filed the application for a registration of a GI to the Office.

(For more information on the notice of comments, see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 2, Standard registration procedure, 3 Union phase, paragraph 3.12 Notice of comments](#)).

2.11 Amendments

As regards amendments to the product specification, the third country where the GI originates is responsible for the approval of those amendments in its territory. The procedure for registering a GI originating in a third country will be applicable to a request for a Union amendment, which needs to be submitted to the Office by the applicant or the competent authority following a favourable national decision.

Standard amendments are examined exclusively by the third country concerned. Once approved at national level, standard amendments must be communicated to the Office only by the competent authority of that third country.

(For more information on the amendments, see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 2, Standard registration procedure, 3 Union phase, paragraph 3.13 Amendments](#)).

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Part D

GI Procedures

Section 5 Recognition of existing /

established GIs

Article 70 CIGIR	Article 5 CIGIR
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Pursuant to [Article 70 CIGIR](#), by **2 December 2026**, national specific protection for GIs for craft and industrial products shall cease to exist, and pending applications shall be considered not to have been submitted, unless a request for registration and protection is made by Member States with an interest in doing so.

The proposed names (legally protected names in the case of Member States with specific national protection, or names established by usage in the case of Member States where there is no specific protection system) that have been communicated by the Member States concerned to the European Commission and the Office by 2 December 2026, will be examined in accordance with the procedure set out in [Articles 22 to 30 CIGIR](#), but without carrying out the Union level opposition procedure (i.e. [Articles 25 to 27 CIGIR](#) do not apply).

If any of these proposed names are generic (see the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 3, Name, 4 Generic terms](#)), they will not be registered ([Article 70\(4\) in fine CIGIR](#)). The Office, or the European Commission in the situations referred to in [Article 30 CIGIR](#), will register the proposed names if they comply with the provisions regulating the scope, GI requirements, product specification, and the single document ([Articles 3, 6, 9 and 10 CIGIR](#)).

National protection may be extended until the registration procedure is finalised and the decision has become final.

Where Union protection is granted, the first day of protection under the CIGIR will be the day on which the Member State notified its request to the European Commission and the Office. Therefore, if the European Commission and the Office are not informed on the same day, the date when the second of those institutions is informed will be the first date of protection.

1 Applicable procedure

Member States must inform the European Commission and the Office of which of their legally protected names or, in the Member States where there is no protection system, which of their names established by usage, they wish to register.

Member States must provide the following information by 2 December 2026:

- name;
- product specification;
- single document; and
- accompanying documentation.

The notification must officially be done to the Commission and the Office from 1 December 2025 and by 2 December 2026.

The obligation of an interested Member State of informing the Commission will be fulfilled by submitting the existing names to the Commission's dedicated functional mailbox.

The obligation of an interested Member State of informing the EUIPO will be fulfilled by submitting the existing names through the digital system or to the EUIPO's dedicated functional mailbox: EUIPO_GIs@euipo.europa.eu.

It is advisable to send the files only once they are complete. The Office will assess the files once all the required documents have been sent.

The communication of names or the submission of the mandatory information after 2 December 2026 will not be accepted for the purposes of recognising existing names.

2 The existence of the name

Depending on whether the existing name is already recognised as a geographical indication under the national law, or whether the name is simply recognised as such by use on the market, that is, the recognition of such names might come from some other national law or system that would exercise the control over such use, the following would be acceptable:

- for existing names that are 'legally protected' under the national law as a GI:
 - indicating the reference number (e.g. GI registration number) in the declaration of compliance, with the conditions of registration according to the CIGIR, issued by a Member State; or
 - providing the information about the registration in a separate document as an 'accompanying document' to the application;
- for existing names 'established by usage':
 - indicating the reasons as to why and how this name has been established by usage in the declaration of compliance issued by a Member State; or
 - providing the information on its establishment by usage in a separate document as an 'accompanying document' to the application.

Either way, and for both scenarios, when providing information on the 'Link' in the product specification and the single document, it has to be clearly indicated that the name has been in use.

Member States must provide sufficient information in the product specification and summarise that information in the single document with a view to clearly identifying and describing the fact that these names already existed prior to 1 December 2025. The Office will examine these applications in line with [Article 70\(4\) CIGIR](#).

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Part E

Cancellation

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Part E

Cancellation

Section 1

Introduction

Once a GI is registered, that registration may be cancelled based on a cancellation request ([Article 32 CIGIR](#)).

The information required to initiate a cancellation procedure and the procedure to decide whether the request is founded or not will depend, in particular, on who the requester is and where it is established or residing.

The cancellation procedure is not applicable to third-country GIs that are protected in the EU under the Geneva Act or under another international agreement ([Article 32\(9\) CIGIR](#)).

Unless the cancellation procedure is initiated by the applicant in whose name the GI has been registered, cancellation proceedings are *inter partes* adversarial proceedings that must be conducted with strict adherence to the principle of impartiality. This entails the Office ensuring fair, objective and unbiased treatment of all the parties involved, guaranteeing the parties' right to be heard and that each of them is afforded an equal and effective opportunity to present arguments and submit evidence in support of their respective claims.

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Part E

Cancellation

Section 2

***Cancellation requester and type of
procedure***

The cancellation procedure will follow, with certain particularities, the procedural steps established for the standard procedure, for the direct registration procedure or the third-country procedure, and this will depend on the cancellation requester:

- standard procedure (cancellation procedure is initiated with the national phase) will apply when the cancellation requester is:
 - the competent authority of a Member State (running the national phase of cancellation proceedings); or
 - a natural or legal person, having a legitimate interest, and who is established or residing in a Member State running the national phase of proceedings ([Article 25\(8\) CIGI IR](#)); or
 - the applicant shown in the [Union register](#) (if established or resident in a Member State conducting the national phase of proceedings, that is, a Member State that did not ask for, or obtain, a derogation);
- direct procedure (cancellation procedure is initiated directly at the Union phase) will apply when the cancellation requester is:
 - a natural or legal person, having a legitimate interest, and who is established or residing in a Member State that obtained a derogation (Denmark, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Finland, Sweden) ([Article 25\(10\) CIGI IR](#)); or
 - the applicant shown in the Union register (if established or resident in Denmark, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Finland, or Sweden);
- third country procedure (cancellation procedure is initiated with the Union phase) will apply when the cancellation requestor is:
 - a natural or legal person, having a legitimate interest, and who is established or residing in a third country; or
 - the competent authority of a third country ([Article 25\(11\) CIGI IR](#)).

The European Commission or the EUIPO may also initiate a cancellation procedure. The particularities of this procedure are described below (see the Guidelines, [Part E, Cancellation, Section 7, Cancellation initiated by the European Commission or the Office](#)).

If the cancellation requester appoints a professional to assist it before the Office, the same principles applicable in registration procedures apply (see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 2, Standard registration procedure, 1.4 Professional assistance](#)).

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Part E

Cancellation

Section 3

Request for cancellation

The request for cancellation must include the following information when submitted to the Office:

1. The registered name proposed for cancellation ([Article 25\(1\)\(a\) CIGI IR](#));
2. The Member State or third country from which the GI concerned by the cancellation originates ([Article 25\(1\)\(b\) CIGI IR](#));
3. A description of the legitimate interest of the natural or legal person requesting to cancel the registration ([Article 25\(1\)\(f\) CIGI IR](#)) (this requirement does not apply to the competent authority of a Member State, [Article 25\(7\) CIGI IR](#));
4. An indication of the grounds for cancellation ([Article 25\(1\)\(g\) CIGI IR](#)) except when the applicant shown in the [Union register](#) is the cancellation requester ([Article 25\(2\) CIGI IR](#));
5. The explanations and reasons for cancellation ([Article 25\(1\)\(h\) CIGI IR](#));
6. Proof of payment of fees, if applicable ([Article 25\(1\)\(j\) CIGI IR](#)).

Additionally, the following documents are to be sent depending on who submits the request to the Office:

- Request submitted by Member States running the national phase:
 - The name and contact details of the authorities of the Member State submitting the request for cancellation ([Article 25\(5\) CIGI IR](#));
 - Indicate the name of the natural or legal person requesting the cancellation at the national phase of the procedure ([Article 25\(1\)\(e\) CIGI IR](#)) unless the cancellation requester is the competent authority of a Member State ([Article 25\(7\) CIGI IR](#));
 - A declaration from the Member State referred to in [Article 22\(1\)\(c\) CIGIR](#) ([Article 25\(1\)\(i\) CIGI IR](#));
- For requesters resident or established in Denmark, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Finland, or Sweden:
 - The name and contact details of the natural or legal person submitting the request for cancellation ([Article 25\(10\) CIGI IR](#));
- For requesters resident or established in third countries:
 - The name and contact details of the authority or the natural or legal person submitting the request for cancellation, where applicable ([Article 25\(11\) CIGI IR](#));
 - The name and address of the authorities or, if available, the bodies or natural persons verifying compliance with the product specification ([Article 25\(1\)\(d\) CIGI IR](#)).

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Part E

Cancellation

Section 4

Grounds for cancellation

A CIGI may be cancelled for the following reasons ([Article 32\(1\) and \(2\) CIGIR](#)):

- It was registered contrary to the rules concerning:
 - generic terms as set out in [Article 42\(1\) CIGIR](#): (see the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 3, Name, 4 Generic terms](#));
 - homonymous geographical indications as set out in [Article 43\(1\) or \(2\) CIGIR](#): (see the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 3, Name, 5 Homonyms](#));
 - conflicts between geographical indications and prior trade marks with a reputation or well-known marks that are likely to mislead the consumer as to the nature of the product as set out in [Article 44\(2\) CIGIR](#) (see the Guidelines, [Part A, Geographical indications for craft and industrial products, Section 3, Name, 6 Conflict with earlier trade marks](#));
- Compliance of the product with the product specification can no longer be assured ([Article 32\(2\)\(a\) CIGIR](#));
- No product has been placed on the market under the GI for a consecutive period of at least five years ([Article 32\(2\)\(b\) CIGIR](#)).

Where the request for cancellation is submitted by the applicant as shown in the [Union register](#), no indication of grounds is required.

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Part E

Cancellation

Section 5

Fees

Whether fees are due when submitting the request for cancellation to the Office will depend on how the GI was registered:

- Fee for cancelling a GI registered under the standard registration procedure – no fee;
- Fee for cancelling a GI registered under the direct registration procedure – EUR 630;
- Fee for cancelling a GI registered under the third country registration procedure – EUR 630.

As an exception, when the cancellation procedure is initiated by the applicant shown in the [Union register](#) ([Article 32\(3\) CIGIR](#)), no fee is due to the Office.

National fees may be due to the competent authorities of the Member States where the procedure is to be initiated at the national phase (standard procedure). For further information, refer to each competent authority ([list](#)).

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Part E

Cancellation

Section 6

Examination

1 Standard procedure

When, depending on the cancellation requester (see the Guidelines, [Part E, Cancellation, Section 2, Cancellation requester and type of procedure](#)), the standard registration procedure applies *mutatis mutandis* ([Article 32\(6\) CIGIR](#)), the cancellation procedure comprises a national phase and a Union phase.

1.1 National phase

The cancellation request must be submitted to the national competent authority of the Member State where the cancellation requester is established or resident.

The cancellation may also be initiated by the competent authority of the Member State.

The competent authority will examine the request and decide whether to lodge it with the Office ([Article 25\(8\) CIGI IR](#)). The examination at national phase must include:

- the possibility for the cancellation requester to complete or correct the cancellation request within a set time limit ([Article 14\(2\)](#) in conjunction with [Article 32\(6\) CIGIR](#));
- an opposition (i.e. objection to cancellation request) period to allow those who are established or resident in that Member State to object to the cancellation request, namely, to argue that the GI should remain in the [Union register](#) ([Article 15](#) in conjunction with [Article 32\(6\) CIGIR](#)).

However, there are some exceptions to the need to have a national opposition (objection) to the cancellation request:

- where the cancellation request is based on a ground referred to in [Article 32\(1\) CIGIR](#) (the GI being generic or in conflict with a homonymous name or a trade mark) and that ground applies exclusively outside the territorial competence of the Member State running the national phase; or
- where the GI originates in another Member State than the one running the national phase or where it originates in a third country.

In the cases above, the competent authority conducting the national phase will only check if the cancellation request is complete and if it has been submitted according to the relevant [form](#) ([Article 25\(1\), \(2\), \(5\) and \(6\) CIGI IR](#)).

If the national phase finishes with a favourable decision on the cancellation request, the competent authority will submit the cancellation request through [GIportal](#) to the Office to initiate the Union phase.

1.2 Union phase

1.2.1 Examination by the Office

The Office will **examine** any cancellation request within six months ([Article 23\(3\) CIGIR](#) in conjunction with [Article 32\(6\) CIGIR](#)). If the period is likely to be exceeded, the Office shall inform the cancellation requester.

If the cancellation request is found to be incomplete or incorrect, or supplementary information is required, the Office will invite the competent authority of the Member State to remedy any deficiencies in the submitted cancellation request. The cancellation requester will be informed (unless the competent authority from the Member State initiated the cancellation at the national level).

If the **GI proposed for cancellation was registered through the direct registration procedure**, the Office will consider whether to consult the Advisory Board or the single point of contact of the relevant Member State (last sentence of [Article 32\(7\) CIGIR](#)). In that case, the examination time limit will be suspended.

1.2.2 Opposition (i.e. objection to cancellation request)

If the cancellation request is found to be correct, **the Office will publish** the request in the Union register, where it will be available for **three months** to allow for **oppositions** to the cancellation of the GI ([Article 23\(7\) CIGIR](#) in conjunction with [Article 32\(6\) CIGIR](#)). Additionally, the competent authority of a Member State or of a third country, or a natural or legal person having a legitimate interest, if they did not have the opportunity to oppose such a request at national phase, may take part in the cancellation proceedings asking for its rejection by the Office.

Pursuant to [Article 32\(7\) CIGIR](#), the Office, before deciding to cancel the registration, will:

- inform the applicant shown in the [Union register](#), unless the cancellation of the registration was requested by the applicant themselves ([Article 32\(3\) CIGIR](#));
- consult the third country's competent authority if the GI concerned originated in that third country.

If no one objects to the cancellation and the Office considers that the requirements of the CIGIR are met, the Office will cancel the GI ([Article 29 CIGIR](#) in conjunction with [Article 32\(6\) CIGIR](#)).

If an objection to the cancellation is filed, under [Article 25\(12\) CIGIR](#), and in conjunction with [Article 16\(6\) CIGIR](#), the Office will immediately notify the objection to the cancellation requester and to the competent authority of the Member State that submitted the cancellation request to the Office and will, within two months from receipt of the opposition, invite the cancellation requestor and the opponent to engage in consultations for three months, which is extendable for another three months ([Article 25\(4\) CIGIR](#) in conjunction with [Article 32\(6\) CIGIR](#)) if requested by the opponent and the cancellation requester within the initial period.

The Office will also offer alternative dispute resolution, such as mediation for the consultations between the cancellation requester and the opponent, as referred to in [Article 170 EUTMR](#).

Within one month from the end of consultations, the cancellation requester must inform the Office of the outcome of consultations through [GIportal](#) (a [form](#) is available for this purpose).

If there is an agreement between the parties, the Office will check whether the agreement complies with EU law ([Article 29\(3\) CIGIR](#) in conjunction with [Article 32\(6\) CIGIR](#)) and will subsequently take a decision to conclude the cancellation proceedings.

If no agreement is reached, the Office will decide, based on the facts before it and in relation to the territory of the EU, whether the cancellation request is well-founded and either reject the request or cancel the GI ([Article 29\(4\) CIGIR](#) in conjunction with [Article 32\(6\) CIGIR](#)).

2 Direct procedure

2.1 Examination by the Office

The examination of a cancellation request will follow similar steps to those followed during the Union phase for those cancellations where the standard procedure applies (see the Guidelines, [Part E, Cancellation, Section 6, Examination, 1 Standard procedure](#)), with the following particularities:

- The cancellation procedure will be initiated by submitting the cancellation request directly with the Office through [GIportal](#).
- In the case of the direct procedure, the Office is not bound by any deadline to perform the examination of the cancellation request. During the examination of the cancellation request, the Office may request assistance from the single point of contact (see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 3, Direct registration procedure, 2 Single point of contact \('SPoC'\) as the Member State's technical support contact](#)).
- If, during examination, the cancellation request is found to be incomplete or incorrect, or supplementary information is required, the Office will invite the cancellation requester to remedy the deficiency, and the single point of contact will be notified under [Article 14\(9\) CIGI IR](#) in conjunction with [Article 25\(12\) CIGI IR](#).

2.2 Opposition (i.e. objection to cancellation request)

If an opposition to the cancellation is filed, the single point of contact will also be notified about that opposition ([Article 16\(5\) CIGI IR](#) in conjunction with [Article 25\(12\) CIGI IR](#)).

3 Third country procedure

3.1 Examination by the Office

The examination of a cancellation request will follow similar steps to those followed during the Union phase for those cancellations where the standard procedure applies (see the Guidelines, [Part E, Cancellation, Section 6, Examination, 1 Standard procedure](#)), with the following particularities:

- The cancellation procedure will be initiated by submitting the cancellation request directly with the Office through [Gportal](#);
- If, during examination, the cancellation request is found to be incomplete or incorrect, or supplementary information is required, the Office will invite the cancellation requester to remedy the deficiency (be it either a natural or legal person established or resident in the third country or a third country's competent authority) ([Article 23 CIGIR](#) in conjunction with [Article 32\(6\) CIGIR](#)).

3.2 Opposition (i.e. objection to the cancellation)

If an opposition to the cancellation is filed, the Office will notify the opposition to the cancellation requester (be it either a natural or legal person established or resident in the third country or the third country's competent authority) ([Article 16\(5\) CIGI IR](#) in conjunction with [Article 25\(12\) CIGI IR](#)).

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Part E

Cancellation

Section 7

***Cancellation initiated by the European
Commission or the Office***

The European Commission or the Office may initiate a cancellation procedure at the Union phase, based on the following grounds ([Article 32\(5\) CIGIR](#)):

- compliance of the product with the product specification can no longer be assured ([Article 32\(2\)\(a\) CIGIR](#));
- no product has been placed on the market under the GI for a consecutive period of at least five years ([Article 32\(2\)\(b\) CIGIR](#)).

The **European Commission will send the cancellation request to the Office** and the Office will publish it for opposition (i.e. objection to cancellation) in accordance with [Article 23\(7\) CIGIR](#) to allow for opposition to the cancellation, namely, to defend the validity of a registered GI. The request to be sent to the Office must contain the elements referred to in [Article 25\(1\) CIGIR](#) (see the Guidelines, [Part E, Cancellation, Section 3, Request for cancellation](#)) that are relevant to this case.

In the case of cancellations on the **Office's own initiative**, the Office will publish for opposition, in accordance with [Article 23\(7\) CIGIR](#), its own proposal of cancellation, which must contain the relevant elements referred to in [Article 25\(1\) CIGIR](#) (see the Guidelines, [Part E, Cancellation, Section 3, Request for cancellation](#)).

In both cases, the **opposition** (i.e. objection to cancellation) can be filed by the competent authority of a Member State or of a third country, or a natural or legal person having a legitimate interest.

Pursuant to [Article 32\(7\) CIGIR](#), the Office, after the publication for opposition (i.e. objection to cancellation), will:

- inform the applicant shown in the [Union register](#);
- consult the third country competent authority if the GI concerned originated in that third country.

If no one opposes the cancellation, the Office will cancel the GI ([Article 29 CIGIR](#) in conjunction with [Article 32\(6\) CIGIR](#)).

If there is opposition to the cancellation, the Office or the European Commission will engage in consultations with the opponent for three months. After the consultation period, the Office will take a decision.

If no agreement is reached, the Office will **cancel the GI** ([Article 29\(4\) CIGIR](#) in conjunction with [Article 32\(6\) CIGIR](#)).

If there is an agreement, the Office will take a decision as per the terms of the agreement, where needed (i.e. unless there is a withdrawal of the cancellation request).

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Part E

Cancellation

Section 8

Effects of cancellation

If a GI has been cancelled on the grounds set out in [Article 32\(1\) CIGIR](#), the GI will be considered as not having produced the effects referred to in CIGIR from the outset ([Article 25\(3\) CIGIR IR](#)) (see the Guidelines, [Part E, Cancellation, Section 4, Grounds for cancellation](#)).

If a GI has been cancelled on the grounds set out in [Article 32\(2\) CIGIR](#), the GI will be considered as not having produced the effects referred to in the CIGIR as from the date when the relevant decision takes effect. This is also applicable to cancellations initiated by a request from the applicant shown in the [Union register](#) for the GI concerned ([Article 25\(4\) CIGIR IR](#)).

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Part F

Union register

Article 37 CIGIR	Article 31 CIGI IR
	Article 32 CIGI IR

The Union register of geographical indications for craft and industrial products ('the Union register') is a public register that has been established by the Office to manage CIGIs. It is a digital solution that allows all entries to be stored technically and compiled. Also, it provides an easily accessible user interface and all the entries are listed in chronological order.

The [Union register](#) is available in all the official languages of the EU. Where the translation of a textual element is not available in the language chosen (this is not applicable to the GI name as GI names are never translated), the Union register must show this item in the language in which the information was submitted to the Office.

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Part F

Union register

Section 1

Entries to be recorded by the Office in the Union register

1 Registration

Article 22 CIGIR	Article 31 CIGI IR
Article 23 CIGIR	Article 37 CIGIR
Article 29(6) CIGIR	
Article 30(3) CIGIR	

Any application for GI registration pursuant to [Article 22 CIGIR](#) will be published in the [Union register](#) once it is submitted to the Office, with the following data:

- the name of the GI as applied for (the name in its original script and where is not in Latin characters, it must be accompanied by its transcription as both name versions have equal status);
- the type of product;
- the application type (registration);
- the country or countries of origin of the GI;
- the file number;
- the date of submission of the application;
- the status of the request.

Where the examination of the application carried out by the Office is favourable pursuant to [Article 23 CIGIR](#) and [Article 14 CIGI IR](#), the following additional data will be published in the [Union register](#) for opposition purposes:

- Date of publication;
- Single document in all the official languages of the EU;
- Reference to the electronic publication of the product specification (must be provided for **standard procedure** applications. For **direct registration** and **GIs originating in third country procedures** a product specification in the language of submission will be made public if the reference to the electronic publication of the product specification is not available).

Any decision on the registration or rejection of the application, adopted by the Office or the European Commission, will be published in the [Union register](#).

Registration of the GI will include the following data:

- the name of the applicant in whose name the GI has been registered;
- the date of registration;
- the decision registering the GI;
- an electronic reference to the OJEU containing the reference to the Office decision.

It may also include the following data:

- opinions by the Advisory Board delivered with regard to individual applications;

- an indication of the control authority in the case of GIs originating in a third country.

A rejection of the application for registration will include the following data:

- a decision rejecting the GI; and
- an electronic reference to the OJEU containing the reference to the Office decision.

2 Amendment

Article 31 CIGIR	Article 31(3) and (5) CIGI IR Article 19(6) and (7) CIGI IR
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2.1 Union amendments

Where the Office receives an application for the approval of a Union amendment to the product specification pursuant to [Article 31 CIGIR](#), the GI, date of application of the amendment, file number, country of origin and status of the request will be published in the Union register.

Where the examination of the request for a Union amendment carried out by the Office is favourable pursuant to [Article 31\(4\) CIGIR](#), the following data will be published in the [Union register](#) for opposition purposes:

- The application type (Union amendment).
- Date of a Union amendment publication.
- Application for a Union amendment to a product specification in all the official languages of the EU.
- Reference to the electronic publication of the consolidated product specification (this must be provided for **standard procedure** applications. For **direct registration** and **GIs originating in third country procedures**, the consolidated version of the product specification in the language of submission will be made available if the reference to the electronic publication of the product specification is not available).

Any decision on the approval or rejection of the request for a Union amendment, adopted by the Office or the European Commission, will be published in the [Union register](#). This implies:

- A decision approving or rejecting the request for a Union amendment.
- Electronic reference to the OJEU containing the reference to the Office decision.
and
- Reference to the electronic publication of the amended/updated product specification (this must be provided for **standard procedure** applications. For **direct registration** and **GIs originating in third country procedures** an amended/updated product specification in the language of submission will be made public

if the reference to the electronic publication of the product specification is not available).

- Consolidated single document, where relevant.

2.2 Standard amendments

In case the standard amendment requires an amendment of the single document, the Office will make public in the [Union register](#), in all EU languages, within three months after the date on which it received the communication of a standard amendment:

- the description of the standard amendment; and
- the amended single document.

In case the standard amendment does not require an amendment of the single document, the Office shall make public in the Union register, in the language as received, the description of the standard amendment, within three months after the date on which it received the communication of that standard amendment.

3 Cancellation

Article 32(8) CIGIR	Article 31(4) CIGI IR
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Any decision by the Office or the European Commission cancelling a registered GI, upon taking effect, will result in the update of the information in the [Union register](#). The following data will be introduced:

- the application type (cancellation)
- the date of cancellation;
- the decision cancelling the GI; and
- the electronic reference to the OJEU containing the reference to the Office decision.

4 Appeal

Article 33(4) CIGIR Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Board	Article 8(3) CIGI DR
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The following data will be published in the [Union register](#):

- information on an appeal being filed;
- decisions of the Boards of Appeal;

- opinions of the Advisory Board delivered with regard to appeal proceedings, as soon as the corresponding decision of the Boards of Appeal becomes final; and
- electronic reference to the publication of a decision of the Boards of Appeal in the OJEU.

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Part F

Union register

Section 2

***Third countries' GIs protected in the Union
by means of international agreements,
including the Geneva Act***

[Article 37\(3\) CIGIR](#)

Once the European Commission adopts an implementing act concerning CIGIs from a third country that have been afforded protection in the EU through an international agreement to which the EU is a contracting party, those GIs are regarded as protected GIs in the EU, and information pertaining to them may be entered in the Union register. Should this be the case, the following data will be entered:

- the name of the GI;
- the type of product;
- the product category;
- the country or countries of origin of the GI;
- the file number;
- the date of registration;
- the date of publication and reference to electronic reference in the OJEU (Information notice – Public consultation);
- an electronic reference to the legal instrument of protection.

Information on third country GIs that are not entered into the Union register will be available in [Glview](#).

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Part G

Appeal

Article 33 CIGIR Article 36 CIGIR Rules of procedure of the Boards of Appeal	Article 3 to 11 CIGI DR
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Any party adversely affected by a decision taken by the Office has, from the date of its publication:

- two months to file a notice of appeal in writing with the Office; and
- four months to file a written statement setting out the grounds of appeal.

Member States shall have the right to join the appeal, as interveners supporting, in whole or in part, the form of order sought by the main party or one of the main parties, within four months after the information on the appeal being filed has been published in the [Union register](#).

The appeal has suspensive effect. Within the period in which an appeal can be lodged, the Office should not take any steps that cannot easily be reversed (e.g. publication or entry in the register).

Appeal proceedings are governed by [Article 33 CIGIR](#) and [Articles 3 to 11 of CIGI DR](#).

Any party to the proceedings before the Boards of Appeal (BoA) adversely affected by its decision and any Member State, may bring actions before the General Court of the European Union ('GC') against BoA decisions, within two months of the notification date of such decisions.

1 Appeal fees

Article 33(4) CIGIR Article 65(3)(c) CIGIR	Article 5(3) CIGI DR Article 30(2) CIGI IR Annex II CIGI IR
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A fee of EUR 720 will be charged by the Office for appeals against a decision taken by the Office.

If the fee is not paid within the period of two months from the date of publication of the Office's decision, the Board of Appeal will deem the appeal as not having been filed ([Article 5\(3\) CIGI DR](#)). Once the notice of appeal has been submitted, the appeal fee must be paid within 10 calendar days ([Article 30\(2\) CIGI IR](#)).

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Part H

***Particularities of proceedings under the
Geneva Act***

Article 1 CIGIR	Article 2 Regulation (EU) 2019/1753
Article 32(9) CIGIR	Article 7 Regulation (EU) 2019/1753
Article 64 CIGIR	Article 11 Regulation (EU) 2019/1753

The implementation of the Geneva Act in the EU is governed by [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/1753](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2019 on the action of the Union following its accession to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications.

Certain provisions of that Regulation have been amended under the CIGIR to ensure coherence in relation to the establishment of an EU system for the protection of CIGIs. In this context, the Office should act as the EU's competent authority in respect of CIGIs under the Geneva Act.

According to [Article 2](#) of that Regulation, the Office will, as the competent authority, file applications for the international registration of CIGIs protected and registered under EU law and pertaining to products originating in the EU.

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Part H

Particularities of proceedings under the Geneva Act

Section 1

Registration of EU GIs under the Geneva Act

Member States may request that the Office extend the protection of the GIs originating in the territory of the respective Member State and that are registered and protected under EU law, to the contracting parties of the Geneva Act (i.e. the WIPO register) at the request of a natural or legal entity having legal standing to assert the rights of the beneficiaries or other rights in the geographical indication ([Article 5\(2\) of the Geneva Act](#)), by a beneficiary or on their own initiative ([Article 2\(2\) of Regulation 2019/1753](#)).

Member States are to send these requests either to the dedicated functional mailbox, that is, EUIPO_GIs@euipo.europa.eu or as a communication in GIportal in the respective file (if sent to the functional mailbox, the Office will upload the communication to the respective GI file in [GIportal](#)).

Member States, the natural person or legal entity, as referred to in point (ii) of Article 5(2) of the Geneva Act, or the beneficiary as defined in point (xvii) of [Article 1 of the Geneva Act](#) are to pay the corresponding [fees](#) directly to WIPO. Member States may require that natural persons, legal entities or beneficiaries pay some or all of the fees.

1 Transition of GIs originating in Member States that are a party to the Lisbon Agreement (Article (3) Regulation (EU) 209/753)

In respect of CIGIs originating in a Member State that is party to the [Lisbon Agreement](#), but that are not yet protected under the CIGIR, the Member State must choose to request either to:

- register the GI under the CIGIR; or
- cancel the registration in the WIPO register.

This can be done either at the request of a natural person or legal entity having legal standing to assert the rights of the beneficiaries or other rights in the appellation of origin or GI, at the request of a beneficiary (i.e. natural persons or legal entities entitled under the law of the Contracting Party of Origin to use an appellation of origin or a GI) or on the Member State's own initiative.

The Member State will notify its choice to the Office.

If the choice is **to register** the GI under the CIGIR, the Member State must file the application for registration before 2 December 2026, and the procedure on [Article 70\(4\) CIGIR](#) will apply (see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 5, Recognition of existing / established GIs](#)).

Member States that have ratified or acceded to the Geneva Act, will, within 12 months from the registration of the respective GI under CIGIR, request WIPO to register that appellation of origin under the Geneva Act. Member States affected by this will communicate directly with WIPO on any modification to be made for the purpose of the registration under the Geneva Act (Rule 7(4) of [Common Regulations under Lisbon Agreement and Geneva Act](#)). The Office will provide assistance if required and will

authorise the Member State to provide for the necessary modifications and to notify WIPO.

The verifications to decide whether a modification is to be requested concern:

- the names of beneficiaries;
- the GI for which registration is sought;
- the type of product;
- the geographical area of production or origin of the products;
- the legal basis of protection of the GI;
- the consistency in the particulars concerning the quality, reputation or other characteristics of the products and its connection with the geographical area of origin in the single document.

If the choice is **to cancel** the international registration, or if the registration under the CIGIR is not successful, the Member State will request the cancellation of the registration of that appellation of origin, without delay, directly to WIPO.

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Part H

***Particularities of proceedings under the
Geneva Act***

Section 2

***Protection of GIs registered under the
Geneva Act by non-EU countries***

WIPO will publish and notify to the Office any international registration from a third country willing to extend its protection to the EU.

The Office will then publish in the C series of the OJEU the international registration notified by WIPO for opposition purposes (the opposition period will be of four months from the publication of the international registration). Simultaneously, within four months from the international registration ([Article 5\(2\) of Regulation 2019/1753](#)), the Office will assess that the requirements in [Common Regulations](#) (Rule 5(2) and (3)) are fulfilled.

After the opposition period, if there is no admissible opposition, the Office may grant protection.

The Commission may take over the decision-making power from the Office, where the registration of the proposed geographical indication might be contrary to public policy, or where such registration or the rejection of the application might jeopardise the Union's trade or external relations (see the Guidelines, [Part D, GI procedures, Section 2, Standard registration procedure, paragraph 3.7.2 By the Commission](#)).

If the assessment is negative or an admissible opposition has been received, the Office will decide whether or not to grant protection. The Office will also publish these decisions in the OJEU.

If the competent authority (i.e. the Office) does not respond within one year of the notification of registration, this is considered a tacit grant of protection. The GI is therefore protected in the respective territory, in this case in the EU, if the competent authority has not reacted within one year.

The Commission will decide whether or not to include in the [Union register](#) a third-country CIGI notified through WIPO ([Article 37\(3\) CIGIR](#) and [Recital 34 CIGIR](#)).

***GUIDELINES FOR EXAMINATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS FOR CRAFT
AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS***

***EUROPEAN UNION
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE
(EUIPO)***

Part H

***Particularities of proceedings under the
Geneva Act***

Section 3

Level of assessment

The criteria to be assessed are similar to other CIGI applications received by the Office. Particular attention is reserved to what are considered the essential elements of the GI, which are the following:

- the name;
- the product category;
- the description of the product;
- the geographical area; and
- the link between the product bearing the name and its geographical area of production.

Elements such as the proof of protection in the country of origin, the control body and, if relevant, the specific labelling rules are also considered.

The cancellation procedure set out in [Article 32 CIGIR](#) is not applicable to third country GIs protected under the Geneva Act.

