

REGISTRATION IN THE EU OF GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS AND DESIGNATIONS OF ORIGIN

PROCEDURES APPLICABLE FOR GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS OUTSIDE THE EU

Regulation (EC) No 510/2006 of 20 March 2006 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs

Note: applications in respect of geographical zones within the EU should be addressed to the national authorities of the Member State concerned.

This document provides guidance for applications for registration, and statements of objection to applications, sent to the Commission by:

- groups and individuals in third countries who wish to apply directly to the Commission;
- national authorities of third countries.

Reference should be made in all matters to the provisions of the Council Regulation [\[Regulation 510/06\]](#). This guidance document does not replace or alter any provision of the regulation.

Regulation (EC) No 510/2006 was adopted by the Council on 20 March 2006 and applies from 31 March 2006. The Regulation provides that certain details are to be covered by implementing legislation, which will be adopted later. However, this does not prevent applications or objections being lodged from 31 March 2006. This text provides non-binding guidance on how to lodge applications or objections so as to allow efficient processing by the Commission.

1. ADDRESS OF THE COMMISSION

- 1.1. Two paper copies of an application file should be sent to the Commission at the following address:

By mail:

PDO-PGI Applications
Unit F.4 Agricultural Product Quality Policy
Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development
European Commission
1049 Bruxelles/Brussel
Belgium

Or delivered by hand to:

PDO-PGI Applications (DG Agri-F.4)
European Commission
rue de Genève 1
1140 Bruxelles/Brussel
Belgium

Please note that, for security reasons, hand-delivered material may only be received at this Commission address.

- 1.2. In addition, a copy of the application file should be delivered in electronic form*, e.g CD-ROM or by e-mail, to:

agri-pdo-pgi-applications@cec.eu.int

** Documentation is requested in electronic form for processing and transmission within the Commission.*

- 1.3. A statement of objection (single copy only needed) may be sent or delivered to the addresses given in section 1.1 or sent by e-mail to the address in section 1.2. In the latter case, a signed paper copy of the e-mail should be sent as soon as possible.

2. APPLICATION FILE

The application file should comprise at least:

- A title page giving the proposed name and contact details (see example template in **Annex I**).
- A “single document”**, preferably drawn up in accordance with the model in **Annex II**,
- The specifications**, as laid down in Article 4(2) of the Regulation.

- Any supporting material as Annexes (for example: justification that the name complies with the requirements of Article 2; supporting documents; possibly original maps, etc).
- Proof that the name proposed for registration is protected in its country of origin**.

*** These documents may need to be translated by the Commission and the electronic copy should be submitted in a popular word processing format. Please do not submit these documents in “.pdf” or any picture-image format.*

3. LANGUAGE OF APPLICATION

An application file may be submitted in any official language of the EU. If it is submitted in another language, a certified translation into an official language of the EU must be provided as required by the Regulation.

Material for publication (the “single document” (Annex II)) will, if the result of the Commission’s scrutiny is positive, be translated by the Commission into all EC languages for publication in the *Official Journal of the EU*.

If the name proposed for registration is not written in the Latin alphabet, provide both the original name and a transliteration in the Latin alphabet.

4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND TREATMENT OF APPLICATIONS

The Commission will acknowledge receipt of the registration application in writing, citing a file number and the date the file was received. This document does not attest that the file is complete and does not prejudge in any way the decision of the Commission.

The Commission publishes the list of requests for registration and their dates of submission on its Internet site: [PDO-PGI applications](#)

The Commission may, if necessary, ask for additional information with a view to supplementing or clarifying certain elements of the application.

If the Commission concludes that conditions to register the name are satisfied, the Commission will publish the details provided for in Article 6 of the regulation. This allows for objections to the registration to be lodged.

If the Commission concludes that conditions for registration are not satisfied, it will reject the application.

5. RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

An application for registration can be withdrawn by the applicant during the procedure. A letter of withdrawal may be sent to the Commission at the address under Section 1 above.

6. STATEMENTS OF OBJECTION

Statements of objection may be lodged following publication of the name proposed for registration in the *Official Journal* (C series). The current publications open for objections are given on the Commission's Internet site: [Publications open](#) .

6.1. Format

A statement of objection may follow the format set out in **Annex III** attached.

6.2. Language

A statement of objection may be submitted in any official language of the EU. If it is submitted in another language, a certified translation into an official language of the EU must be provided as required by the Regulation.

If the statement of objection is assessed to be admissible by the Commission, it will be forwarded to the applicant or national authorities concerned. In order to facilitate understanding by the applicant or national authorities, persons and authorities submitting statements of objection may wish to submit their statement, or a copy of their statement, in the language of the country from which the application comes.

6.3. Treatment of objections

If the Commission concludes that the statement of objection is not admissible, it will send its conclusions to the party that lodged the objection.

If the statement of objection is considered admissible, the Commission sends the statement of objection to the applicant or national authorities concerned. The applicant or national authorities are invited to make appropriate consultations directly with the objector and seek agreement.

The six-month deadline provided for in Article 7(5) for the appropriate consultations runs from the date the Commission sends the statement of objection to the applicant.

The Commission does not participate in the consultations between the applicant or national authorities and the objector.

At the end of the period, the applicant or national authorities should forward to the Commission the form reproduced at **Annex IV** attached, duly completed, together with any appropriate documentation.

If an agreement reached between the parties includes changes to the application, the Commission may decide to publish material in the *Official Journal of the EU*, which in turn may lead to the opening of a second objection period.

If no agreement is reached, the Commission will take a decision on the application.

7. PRESENTATION OF MATERIAL

Applicants are kindly requested to follow these guidelines in preparing documentation.

7.1. Presentation of e-documents

Documents transmitted in electronic format should be readable using common software. This is to facilitate handling by the Commission, and transmission to and from different departments, without loss of data or formatting. Applicants and objectors may wish to note that the Commission uses Microsoft Word (".doc") in its daily work.

Please note that the material that may need to be translated, in particular:

- the "single document";
- the specification;
- proof that the name proposed for registration is protected in its country of origin; and
- statements of objection,

should not be sent in ".pdf" or picture-image format (".jpg" etc.).

7.2. Presentation of paper documents

The Commission has experienced difficulties in dealing with applications presented on coloured paper and paper of a thickness or format not suited to the machines in use. Reformatting the paper versions is not possible and reformatting the electronic versions can lead to a loss of presentation quality, page references, and so on.

For this reason, applicants and objectors are kindly requested to use ordinary white paper without any binding. Text should be presented in a common typeface and be easily readable (for example Times New Roman, 12pt, in single-line spacing). Pages should be numbered and annexes clearly identified.

8. ANNEXES

Annex I:	Title page
Annex II:	Single document
Annex III:	Statement of objection
Annex IV:	Result of consultations
Annex V:	Classification of Products
