

Special Union for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration (Lisbon Union)

Assembly

Forty-Second (26th Ordinary) Session
Geneva, July 8 to 17, 2025

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE COMMON REGULATIONS UNDER THE LISBON AGREEMENT AND THE GENEVA ACT OF THE LISBON AGREEMENT

Document prepared by the Secretariat

INTRODUCTION

1. The development of the Lisbon System for the International Registration of Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications (hereinafter referred to as “the Lisbon System”), in terms of both membership and number of transactions under the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications (hereinafter referred to as “the Geneva Act”), has brought to light the need to consider amendments to the Common Regulations under the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration and the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications (hereinafter referred to as “the Common Regulations”) to increase clarity and legal certainty regarding the procedures under the Lisbon System.

2. Hence, at its sixth session, which took place from March 18 to 20, 2025, the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”) recommended to the Assembly of the Lisbon Union the adoption of the proposed amendments to Rule 1(1) of the Common Regulations, as presented in the Annex to document [LI/WG/DEV-SYS/6/3 Rev.](#), and of the proposed amendments to Rules 8, 15 and 18 of the Common Regulations as amended by the Working Group (see paragraph 15 of document [LI/WG/DEV-SYS/6/4](#)).

3. Furthermore, the Working Group agreed to continue its discussions, at the next session, on the proposed amendments to Rules 9 to 12 of the Common Regulations (see paragraph 16 of document [LI/WG/DEV-SYS/6/4](#)).

4. Discussions in the Working Group were based on document [LI/WG/DEV-SYS/6/3 Rev.](#) and on alternative proposals for amendments submitted by delegations during the Working Group. Relevant background information on the proposed amendments to the Common Regulations is given in the following paragraphs. The proposed amendments are reproduced in the Annex to the present document (proposed amendments are underlined or struck through).

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE COMMON REGULATIONS

5. The proposed amendment to Rule 1(1) of the Common Regulations would update the definition of “official form” in subparagraph (vi) to include a reference to the electronic interface (e-Lisbon), which has been made available by the International Bureau to Competent Authorities of the Lisbon System on the Organization’s website.

6. The proposed amendment to Rule 8(9) of the Common Regulations would clarify the relevant date for determining the amount of fees to be paid under the Lisbon System, considering the specificities of the System. The proposed amendment will increase predictability and legal certainty concerning the amount of fees to be paid, while securing equal treatment for all users.

7. The proposed amendment to Rule 15(1) of the Common Regulations would extend the list of modifications that can be recorded in the International Register, while also introducing, in a new paragraph (5), the possibility for a Contracting Party to notify a refusal if it is not in a position to ensure the protection of the appellation of origin or geographical indication following the modification and only because of that modification.

8. The proposed mirror amendment to Rule 18(4) of the Common Regulations would introduce the same clarification, namely that a refusal following a correction can only be based on that correction and thus align the text in Rule 18(4) with the proposed new Rule 15(5).

DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE

9. The Working Group recommended that the proposed amendments to Rules 1, 8, 15 and 18 of the Common Regulations, as reproduced in the Annex to the present document, enter into force on July 1, 2026 (see paragraph 15 of document [LI/WG/DEV-SYS/6/4](#)).

10. The Assembly of the Lisbon Union is invited to adopt the amendments to the Common Regulations under the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration and the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications, as set out in the Annex to document LI/A/42/2, with July 1, 2026, as their date of entry into force.

[Annex follows]

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE COMMON REGULATIONS UNDER THE LISBON AGREEMENT FOR THE PROTECTION OF APPELLATIONS OF ORIGIN AND THEIR INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION AND THE GENEVA ACT OF THE LISBON AGREEMENT ON APPELLATIONS OF ORIGIN AND GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS

Common Regulations Under the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and Their International Registration and the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications

as in force on July 1, 2026 ~~July 14, 2023~~

**Chapter I
Introductory and General Provisions**

**Rule 1
Definitions**

(1) *[Abbreviated Expressions]* For the purposes of these Regulations, unless expressly stated otherwise:

[...]

- (vi) “Official Form” means a form drawn up by the International Bureau or an electronic interface made available by the International Bureau on the website of the Organization;

[...]

**Chapter II
Application and International Registration**

[...]

**Rule 8
Fees**

[...]

(9) *[Change in the Amount of the Fees]*

(a) Where the amount of the fees payable in respect of an application referred to in Rule 5(2)(c) is changed between the date of filing the application and the date of payment, the fee that was valid on the first date shall be applicable.

(b) Where the amount of the fees payable in respect of a request for entry of a modification referred to in Rule 15(2)(a) is changed between the date on which the request was presented and the date of payment, the fee that was valid on the first date shall be applicable.

- (c) Where the amount of the fees to be paid in relation to a modification or as an individual fee, in the case referred to in Rule 7(4)(a) and (d), is changed between the date of entry into force of the Geneva Act with respect to a State that is party to the 1967 Act and the date of payment, the fee that was valid on the first date shall be applicable.
- (d) Where the amount of any fee other than the fees referred to in subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c) is changed, the amount valid on the date on which the fee was received by the International Bureau shall be applicable.

[...]

Rule 15 **Modifications**

(1) *[Permissible Modifications]* The following modifications may be recorded in the International Register:

[...]

- (vii) a modification relating to the appellation of origin or the geographical indication;
- (viii) a modification relating to the good or goods to which the appellation of origin or the geographical indication applies;
- (ix) a modification relating to the particulars as referred to in Rule 5(3)(a) or the information referred to in Rule 5(6)(a)(vi).

[...]

(5) *[Application of Rules 9 to 12]*

- (a) Where the modification concerns the appellation of origin or the geographical indication, or the good or goods to which the appellation of origin or the geographical indication applies, the Competent Authority of a Contracting Party has the right to declare that it cannot ensure the protection of the appellation of origin or geographical indication because of the modification. The declaration shall be addressed to the International Bureau by such Competent Authority within a period of one year from the date of receipt of the notification by the International Bureau of the modification. Rules 9 to 12 shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.
- (b) Where the modification concerns the particulars as referred to in Rule 5(3)(a), the Competent Authority of a Contracting Party that has made the notification under Rule 5(3), has the right to declare that it cannot ensure the protection of the appellation of origin or geographical indication because of the modification. The declaration shall be addressed to the International Bureau by such Competent Authority within a period of one year from the date of receipt of the notification by the International Bureau of the modification. Rules 9 to 12 shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

[...]

Rule 18
Corrections Made to the International Register

[...]

(4) *[Application of Rules 9 to 12]* Where the correction of an error concerns the appellation of origin or the geographical indication, or the good or goods to which the appellation of origin or the geographical indication applies, the Competent Authority of a Contracting Party has the right to declare that it cannot ensure the protection of the appellation of origin or geographical indication ~~after~~ because of the correction. The declaration shall be addressed to the International Bureau by such Competent Authority within a period of one year from the date of receipt of the notification by the International Bureau of the correction. Rules 9 to 12 shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

[...]

[End of Annex and of document]