



Geographical indications can now be registered in Russia

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 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, RUSSIA

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Starting from 27 July 2020 the recent amendments to the Russian Civil Code and other relevant Russian laws introducing the protection of geographical indications came into force. Applications for registration of geographical indications can, therefore, now be filed. Geographical indications (GI) protect goods originating from a certain region, if some specific features of the goods may be credited to such region, and a production stage that contributes to the specific characteristics of the goods takes place in that region. Any mark can be registered as a GI, and may not include the geographical name of the region. GI registration requirements will be easier to meet than those for registration of appellations of origin. For example, the applicant does not need to obtain from a Russian industry sector authority a special certificate confirming the unique characteristics of goods referred in the appellation of origin (AO) application.

The application for a GI can be filed by one or more applicants, and the right shall vest in all applicants. Besides, the right to a GI may be granted at the request of the current holder to another person, if such person proves to produce the same goods that meet the special characteristics listed in the GI certificate. The new rightholder is recorded in the Russian Patent Office (Rospatent) state register of GIs.

The Russian Patent Office (Rospatent) expects receiving numerous applications for registration of GIs from Russian entities. GI registrations may be also of interest for foreign holders of appellation of origin rights, which were not able to register the same in Russia due to the more complex requirements applied to AOs in Russia.

As an additional form of protection, the holders of rights to geographical indications and appellations of origin can mark their goods with special





signs of GI



and AO
introduced by the Rospatent.

On this subject, see please our previous contribution at <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=8109ae63-17b1-4a16-88ed-3725daea1cf4>.





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