

Summary of Specification



1. Name of the GI + transcription in Latin alphabet or in international phonetic alphabet

岩手木炭 (transcription: Iwate Mokutan), 岩手切炭(transcription: Iwate Kirizumi),
IWATE CHARCOAL

2. Category of the product for which the name is protected

Class 20 : Charcoals (Black charcoal)

3. Applicant – name and address

Iwate Prefecture Charcoal Association

2-3-21 Minami-senboku, Morioka City, Iwate Prefecture 020-0863, Japan

4. Date of first Protection in the country of origin

August 6, 2018

5. Description of product

IWATE CHARCOAL is black charcoal produced using raw wood grown in Iwate Prefecture. Charcoal is classified into black charcoal and white charcoal, depending on the charcoal making method. While carbonization temperature of general black charcoal in Japan is 400 to 700°C, that of IWATE CHARCOAL is about 800°C, which results in carbon percentage of 90% (fuel charcoal [black charcoal] standard specified by the Japan Charcoal and Fuel Association is 75% or higher), minimum smoke, flame and odor during combustion and less ash after combustion.

Since only *nara* (oak) and *kunugi* (sawtooth oak), which are hard and most suitable for charcoal making, are used, IWATE CHARCOAL is hard and keeps burning for a long time.

Additionally, careful and slow charcoal making process, using unique *Iwate Gama* (Iwate kiln) or *Iwate Tairyō Gama* (Iwate large kiln) developed in Iwate, ensures that the temperature is uniform anywhere in the kiln to carbonize each piece of wood evenly to make firm charcoal with less cracks. With bark attached, IWATE CHARCOAL can be ignited easily.

At the Zenkoku Mokutan Hinpyokai (national charcoal competition) that started after the end of the World War II, IWATE CHARCOAL constantly ranked tops, including top organization award. In 1990, IWATE CHARCOAL won the Forestry Agency Director-General Award.

Since 2006, IWATE CHARCOAL has received the MAFF Minister Award or the Forestry Agency Director-General Award every year in the Norin Suisan Sai (Festival of Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries) co-sponsored by MAFF and the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan Promotion Association. .

6. Description/delimitation of the Geographical Area and of specific steps in production that must take place in the identified geographic area.

(1) Producing Area

Iwate Prefecture

(2) Tree variety

Use *nara* (oak) or *kunugi* (sawtooth oak) grown in Iwate Prefecture.

(3) Production method

Use *Iwate Gama* or *Iwate Tairyō Gama*.

(4) Shipment standard

Refining degree should be up to 8.

Refining degree refers the level of carbonation, indicated as electric resistance on the surface of charcoal on a ten-point scale from zero to nine.

As the level of carbonation becomes lower toward the bottom of charcoal, a certain portion should be cut to satisfy the shipment standard.

7. Link with the Geographical Area

In Iwate Prefecture with rich forest resources, charcoal production has been active since old times. Even today, forested area accounts for 77% of the total land area of Iwate Prefecture, greater than the national average of 67%. Additionally, volume of log production in Iwate Prefecture is the third largest in Japan. Broad-leaf trees account for 22% of all log production volume, much higher than national average of 11% (Forestry Agency, Fiscal 2015 wood demand and supply report).

The Iwate Prefecture Charcoal Association took initiative to conduct research and development on new charcoal-making kilns in 1953, and completed Iwate Gama in 1956, and, with subsequent improvement efforts, developed it into Iwate Tairyō Gama in 1964. Having a unique structure that takes into account heat convection within the kiln, Iwate Gama can produce high-quality charcoal in a stable manner at unified temperature in the kiln with easy charcoal-making operations.

The unification of kiln led to standardization of charcoal-making operations, so that the Iwate Prefecture Charcoal Association held seminars to provide technical guidance for

building Iwate Gama to spread the use of the kiln, with the goal of improving quality and stability of Iwate-produced charcoal.

To pass the excellent historic charcoal-making technology in the prefecture onto future generations, Iwate Prefecture established a charcoal producer certification system in 1988, and has certified charcoal burners with outstanding skills as “charcoal meisters” to achieve substantial results in developing young producers.

8. History / confirmations of on-going production

Iwate Prefecture’s charcoal production has a long history that is said to have started around 1100 when culture thrived in Hiraizumi, Iwate Prefecture. An excavation of old ruins in Hiraizumi reported the use of charcoal as a heat source when firing earthenware in a ruin of an earthenware kiln dated back to the early 12th Century.

In the 1870s and 1880s, the major charcoal demand was for industrial use in Tohoku region where iron-making was active. As the Tohoku Honsen railway was extended to Morioka city, Iwate prefecture, in 1891, shipment of charcoal as general fuel to Tokyo increased so that Iwate Prefecture established its position as the No. 1 charcoal producer in Japan in 1912.

With continued efforts for developing new charcoal-making kilns under the guidance of the Iwate Prefecture Charcoal Association to improve and stabilize charcoal quality, IWATE CHARCOAL has been enjoying a high reputation among consumers. Even today Iwate Prefecture maintains its No. 1 position with the production volume.

9. Specific rules concerning labelling and using, if any

N/A

10. Control body / control authority responsible for checking the respect of the product specifications

Control body is Iwate Prefecture Charcoal Association.

In addition, MAFF regularly monitors the condition of quality control in the process of production, through the examination of annual report submitted by Iwate Prefecture Charcoal Association.

11. Outline of the quality control plan

Iwate Prefecture Charcoal Association will check (1) producing area, (2) Tree variety, (3) Production method, (4) Shipment standard and final product. If a producer fails to abide by the specification, Iwate Prefecture Charcoal Association will issue a warning and request a correction of his/her production. In case the producer does not follow the warning, Iwate Prefecture Charcoal Association will expel the producer from the association. In addition, Iwate Prefecture Charcoal Association will prepare an annual performance report and submit

it to the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

12. Information of registered trademark(s) identical or similar to the GI (if applied by the GI holder in other Party's territory)

N/A