

Summary of Specification



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

浄法寺漆 (Transcription: Joboji Urushi) , Joboji Urushi

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

Class 18 : Lacquer (Japanese Lacquer)

3. Applicant – name and address

Iwate Prefectural Joboji Urushi Production Association

37-4 Shimomaeta, Joboji Town, Ninohe City, Iwate Prefecture, 028-6854, Japan

4. Date of first Protection in the country of origin

December 27, 2018

5. Description of product

Japanese Lacquer made from natural resin of lacquer trees. Joboji Urushi has outstanding strength after curing as well as stable quality. Since it has a great variety in terms of transparency, cure time, and viscosity, and excels in durability, it enjoys high reputation from lacquer users, such as lacquer artists, lacquer painters, and artisans who repair cultural properties buildings.

It has been used to repair many buildings that represent Japan, including national treasures and important cultural properties, over centuries and thus has supported Japanese culture and history.

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:

Entire Iwate Prefecture; Sannohe County, Hachinohe City, and Towada City in Aomori Prefecture; and Kosaka Town in Kazuno County, Kazuno City, and Odate City in Akita Prefecture

(2) Production method:

① Collection method

Lacquer should be taken from the lacquer tree by professional lacquer-tappers within the place of production.

② Shipment standard

(a) Foreign matter is not mixed intentionally to increase the volume or for other purposes.

(b) Lacquer other than Joboji Urushi is not mixed.

7. Link with the Geographical Area

According to the 2015 special forestry product production survey, the total lacquer cultivation area in Japan is 326 ha, and 278 ha, or about 85%, is located in Iwate Prefecture. More than half of the cultivation area in Iwate Prefecture is located in Ninohe City, the major place of production of Joboji Urushi.

It was recorded that Morioka Domain (the north central region of present-day Iwate Prefecture and the eastern part of present-day Aomori Prefecture) during the Edo period encouraged planting of lacquer trees. In this region, lacquer has been precious asset from old times. Locals for long years have made efforts to provide the suitable habitat for lacquer trees.

The growth and management method have been passed on to present, helping protect and grow lacquer forests that produce Joboji Urushi in harmony with nature.

8. History / confirmations of on-going production

Production of Joboji Urushi has a long history. In *Zassho*, a diary by chief retainers of Morioka Domain, it is recorded, many times, that Morioka Domain encouraged lacquer cultivation.

In the Meiji period, lacquer-tappers from Imadate District of Fukui Prefecture came and worked in Joboji in search for abundant lacquer trees. They transferred the tapping method of taking all lacquer saps from one tree in one year and cutting down the tree, as well as the tools used, to Joboji. The technique has been passed on to lacquer-tappers of today.

Since Morioka Domain encouraged lacquer production, the producing area of Joboji Urushi today produces 70% of lacquer produced and distributed in Japan by taking over the outstanding tapping technique and lacquer forests.

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 Prefectural Joboji Urushi Production 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 Prefectural Joboji Urushi Production Association.

11. Outline of the quality control plan

Iwate Prefectural Joboji Urushi Production Association will check (1) collection method, (2) shipment standard and final products. If a producer fails to abide by the specification, Iwate Prefectural Joboji Urushi Production Association will give instruction. Also Iwate Prefectural Joboji Urushi Production Association will issue a warning and request a correction of his/her production. In case the producer does not follow the warning, Iwate Prefectural Joboji Urushi Production Association will stop receiving the product he/she produced. In addition, Iwate Prefectural Joboji Urushi Production 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