



## NOTICE

Published under article 31 of Assimilated Regulation (EU) 2019/787 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on the definition, description, presentation and labelling of spirit drinks, the use of the names of spirit drinks in the presentation and labelling of other foodstuffs, the protection of geographical indications for spirit drinks, the use of ethyl alcohol and distillates of agricultural origin in alcoholic beverages, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 110/2008, of the decision to reject an application for approval of a standard amendment to the product specification of the geographical indication (GI), Single Malt Welsh Whisky.

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Notice is given to Welsh Whisky Association and the public that, under Article 31 of Assimilated Regulation (EU) No 2019/787, the Secretary of State has decided to reject the standard amendment application to the product specification of the geographical indication (GI), Single Malt Welsh Whisky under the UK Government's geographical indications scheme for spirit drinks.

### **Reason for the decision**

The proposed amendment would add two new requirements to the Single Malt Welsh Whisky product specification:

- (i) the introduction of mashing and fermentation as mandatory production stages, and
- (ii) a requirement for these stages to occur at the same physical distillery where distillation takes place.

Both of these amendments could exclude potential producers from using the GI designation, restrict the ability for current producers to change their production methods and restrict the ability of new whisky producers to use the GI. The amendments would therefore directly affect market access and entail further restrictions on marketing. Pursuant to Article 31(3)(d) of Assimilated Regulation (EU) No 2019/787, an amendment which entails further restrictions on the marketing of the product shall be considered a non-standard amendment. Accordingly, the proposed

changes to the product specification may only be made as a non-standard amendment and the application for approval of a standard amendment is therefore rejected.

### **Appeal against the decision**

An appeal against the Secretary of State's decision can be made to the First-tier Tribunal in accordance with Article 43 of Assimilated Regulation (EU) No 2019/787 and the Tribunal Procedure (First-tier Tribunal) (General Regulatory Chamber) Rules 2009 (S.I. 2009/1976). It must be made before 5pm on 26 May 2026 and include the information specified in the 2009 Rules.