



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

NOTICE

Published under Article 30(5) of assimilated Regulation (EU) No 2019/787 of the European Parliament and of the Council 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, as assimilated into UK law (“assimilated Regulation (EU) No 2019/787”).

Notice is given that, pursuant to Article 30(5) of assimilated Regulation (EU) No 2019/787, the Secretary of State has approved the application for registration for **“English Whisky”**, a protected geographical indication (**“GI”**) for whisky made from UK cereal grain and English water, distilled in England.

Reason for the decision

In accordance with Article 26 of assimilated Regulation (EU) 2019/787, the Secretary of State examined an application submitted to the Secretary of State under Article 24 of assimilated Regulation (EU) 2019/787 to protect “English Whisky” as a geographical indication and was satisfied that the conditions laid down in assimilated Regulation 2019/787 are met in respect of that application.

In accordance with Article 26(2) of assimilated Regulation (EU) 2019/787, the Secretary of State published the single document and product specification submitted in support of the application to register “English Whisky” on 19 February 2025, starting the period (“the opposition period”) during which the application could be opposed under Article 27 of assimilated Regulation (EU) 2019/787.

The Secretary of State received seven notices of opposition within the opposition period. All seven notices were followed by reasoned statements of opposition within the prescribed period. Three of these were deemed inadmissible because they did not raise any of the grounds for opposition set out in Article 28(1). The remaining four were admissible.

The applicant and opposing parties with admissible objections were invited to consult with each other with the aim of coming to an amicable agreement.

The principal area of contention concerned the requirement for copper stills to be used in the production of malt whisky; several objectors said that this would exclude their use of stills made of or incorporating other materials. Following consultation, the specification was amended by the applicant to state that there must be sufficient copper contact in the vapour path, rather than wholly copper stills. However, despite this amendment, the applicant and most of the objectors were not able to reach agreement.

As agreement was not reached with all objectors, in accordance with Article 30(3)(b) of assimilated Regulation (EU) No 2019/787 the Secretary of State was required to decide on registration taking into account the extent of agreement, remaining objections and other information available from the consultations.

The Secretary of State considered all of the information relevant to the application and concluded that the application met the criteria laid down in assimilated Regulation (EU) 2019/787. Accordingly, the name “English Whisky” will be registered as a GI.

The Secretary of State will enter the name on the register on 1 October 2026. This will be 20 days after this notice is published.

The entry of the name on the register will grant the protection provided for in Article 21 of assimilated Regulation (EU) 2019/787. That protection will take effect as soon as the product name is added to the register.

What will happen next

A 20-day notice period applies in respect of this notice, which begins on the day on which this notice is published.

Under Article 30(5)(a) of assimilated Regulation (EU) 2019/787, the Secretary of State must record an entry on the register relating to the registration of “English Whisky” and attach a copy of the product specification relating to the use of the name, to the register, as soon as possible after expiry of the 20-day notice period.

Under Article 30(5)(b) of assimilated Regulation (EU) 2019/787, the register entry, and product specification, will be effective immediately after the register has been updated and the product specification has been attached to the register, protecting “English Whisky” as a GI in Great Britain from that time.

Appeal against the decision

An appeal may be made to the First-tier Tribunal against this decision under Article 43 of assimilated Regulation (EU) 2019/787, as read with Annex 2 to that Regulation, and the Tribunal Procedure (First-tier Tribunal) (General Regulatory Chamber) Rules 2009 (“2009 Rules”)

Rule 22(2) of the 2009 Rules specifies what the notice of appeal must include. This includes the name and address of the respondent (rule 22(2)(d) of the 2009 Rules).

The name of the respondent is the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. This should be included in section 4.1 of the form (regulator's details).

The address given in section 4.2 of the form should be that of the Government Legal Service, whose postal address is:

102 Petty France
Westminster
London
SW1H 9AJ

In section 4.3 of the form, under contact details, you should provide the following service email address of the Government Legal Department:

newproceedings@governmentlegal.gov.uk

In accordance with rule 22(3) of the 2009 Rules, an appeal against the decision to which this notice relates must include a copy of this notice.

An appeal must be made by sending or delivering a notice of appeal to the Tribunal so that it is received by the Tribunal before 5 p.m. on 8 October 2026.