

Intellectual Property Office of Singapore  
Registry of Geographical Indications  
Circular No. 3/2020: Amendments to Geographical Indications Act 2014 and Geographical Indications Rules 2019 to Enter into Force on 15 August 2020

**Amendments to Geographical Indications Act 2014 (“GI Act 2014”) and Geographical Indications Rules 2019 to Enter into Force on 15 August 2020**  
(Circular No. 3/2020, dated 12 August 2020)

The Geographical Indications (Amendment) Act 2020 which was passed by Parliament on 3 February 2020 will enter into force on 15 August 2020, together with the Geographical Indications (Amendment No. 2) Rules 2020.

Key amendments include:

- (a) Clarification on requirements for filing a Qualification of Rights request;
- (b) Clarification on how variants of a GI are treated; and
- (c) Removal of post-registration Qualification of Rights and the establishment of a Limitation of Scope mechanism.

**Clarification on requirements for filing a Qualification of Rights request**

In cases where a trader’s or producer’s request to qualify the rights of a GI would effectively nullify that GI, the request should be filed as an opposition or cancellation action, whichever is applicable, instead.

**Clarification on how variants of a GI are treated**

Section 2 of GI Act 2014 has been amended to clarify that individual variants of a GI (such as translations, transliterations, or other names used for the same product) may be challenged or rejected, while others proceed to registration.

**Removal of post-registration Qualification of Rights and the establishment of a Limitation of Scope mechanism**

The GI Act 2014 has been amended to remove the post-registration Qualification of Rights process. Bearing in mind however that there may be disputes as to the scope of the protection conferred upon a registered GI post-registration, a new judicial process will be introduced to deal with such matters. Any post-registration applications for a limitation as to the scope of rights conferred in respect of a registered GI, will now be filed in and heard by the High Court. The Qualification of Rights mechanism continues to be available for GIs that have not yet been registered.

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The full list of amendments can be accessed [here](#) and [here](#).

If you have any enquiries on this Circular, please email us at [ipos\\_enquiry@ipos.gov.sg](mailto:ipos_enquiry@ipos.gov.sg).

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**Intellectual Property Office of Singapore**  
1 Paya Lebar Link, #11-03  
PLQ 1, Paya Lebar Quarter  
Singapore 408533

**T** +65 6339 8616  
**F** +65 6339 0252  
**W** [www.ipos.gov.sg](http://www.ipos.gov.sg)