



IGE | IPI

Lisbon System

The international registration of appellations of origin and geographical indications and their protection in the Lisbon System



What is the Lisbon System?

The Lisbon System, as modernised by the Geneva Act of 2015, is the only international system for registering and protecting geographical indications and appellations of origin. It is administered by the World Intellectual Property Organization.

The system provides a **high level of protection** to registered denominations in **several countries** based on **one single application** in one single language and the payment of **one single set of fees**.

Which countries are members of the Geneva Act?

The Geneva Act, which has been in force in Switzerland since 1 December 2021, already has ten members, including the EU. A number of other countries are currently acceding.

One simple procedure

- **One single application** (in French) to the IPI
- **One single form** containing formal information as well as the *product specification* and the historical dossier that show the link between the quality or characteristics of the product and the geographical production area
- **Automatic protection** in all the contracting parties (no designation needed), but option to waive protection in certain contracting parties
- **National appeal procedure** if protection is refused in a contracting party
- **One single set of fees** (in CHF)

Types of fees

- Registration fee: CHF 1,000 (single payment)
- Individual fees:
 - Cambodia: CHF 98
 - Samoa: CHF 187 (+ recurring usage fee)
 - Other members: CHF 0

Which Swiss denominations are affected?

- PAOs and PGIs
- Appellations of Controlled Origin for wine
- Indications defined by a Federal Council ordinance (Art. 50, para. 2, TmPA)
- Trade marks consisting solely of a geographical indication

Effective global protection

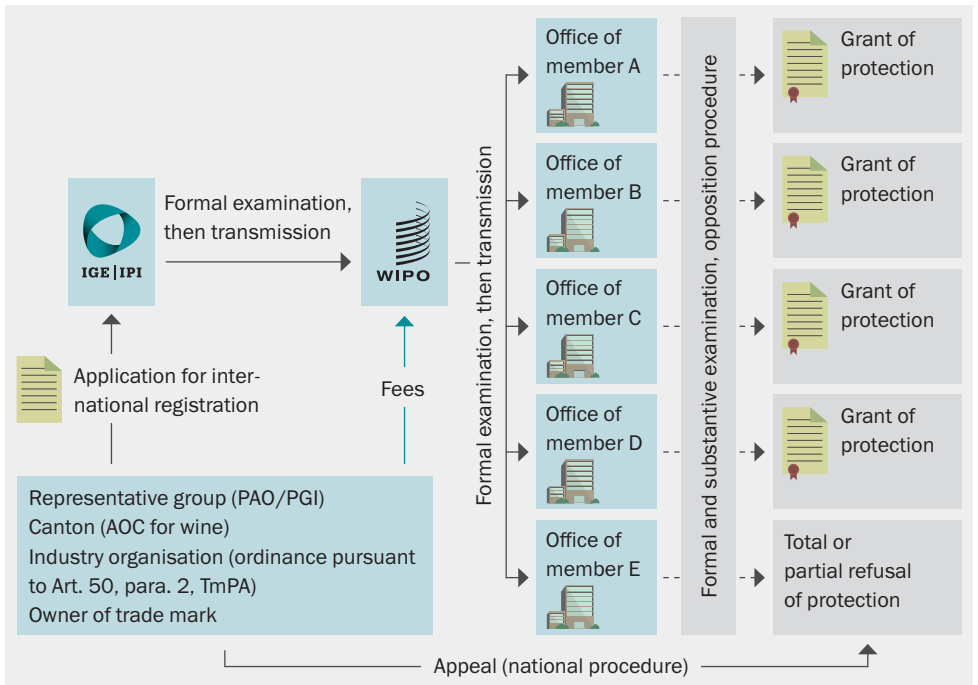
The Geneva Act (Art. 11) protects against

- i. the use of the registered denomination for *products of the same kind* that do not meet the conditions;
- ii. the use of the registered denomination for *products that are not of the same kind and for services* if this use results in confusion with the registered denomination and could impair or dilute the reputation of the denomination or take unfair advantage of it;
- iii. any other practice liable to mislead consumers as to the true origin, provenance or nature of the goods.

Once it is protected, the denomination cannot become generic again.

Guarantee of third-party rights in Switzerland

- Legally recognised automatic coexistence for trade marks filed or registered in good faith prior to the protection of the foreign denomination in Switzerland.
- Option for the owner of the earlier trade mark to oppose the effects of the protection of the registered foreign denomination in Switzerland. The opposition must be submitted in writing to the IPI within three months of the publication of the international registration in the Federal Gazette.



References

The legal texts and explanations are available on the IPI's website under 'Law and policy'.