

Applicable procedures to challenge and enforce rights in appellations of origin and geographical indications in the Republic of Moldova

The applicable procedures to challenge and enforce rights on appellations of origin and geographical indications in the Republic of Moldova are mentioned in the Law No. 66/2008 regarding the protection of geographical indications, appellations of origin and guaranteed traditional specialties (further – [Law No. 66/2008](#)).

The reasoned opposition is submitted in writing to AGEPI, within 3 months from the date of publication of the application in the Official Bulletin of Intellectual Property, by any person who has a legitimate interest. This being accompanied by proof of payment of the established fee. The procedure for submitting the opposition is described in art. 22 of the Law No. 66/2008.

Any decision regarding applications for registration of appellations of origin or geographical indications can be contested by the parties within 2 months from the date of receipt or by third parties within 30 days from the date on which the decision was made public. The reasoned objection is submitted to AGEPI, in writing, and is examined by the Board of Appeals in accordance with its regulations approved by the [Government Decision No. 257/2009](#) regarding the approval of the Regulation of the Board of Appeals of the State Agency on Intellectual Property. It is considered submitted only after payment of the established fee. Appeals, conflicts with other rights are specified in Chapter IV of Law No. 66/2008.

Natural or legal persons, or other interested entities, whose right has been violated in any way, causing direct or indirect damage, is entitled to initiate an action in the court, in the manner established by law, to defend themselves legitimate rights and interests. Details about enforcement of rights are specified in Chapter VI of Law No. 66/2008.

In order to implement the provisions of art. 33 and 34 of the Law No. 66/2008, the Government of the Republic of Moldova designated the competent authorities empowered with attributions and responsibilities regarding the official controls regarding the compliance of products with protected appellations of origin and geographical indications with the corresponding technical specifications ([Government Decision No. 644/2010](#)).

In accordance with the normative acts regulating the customs activity, as well as with the international treaties to which the Republic of Moldova is a party, Custom Service provide for the enforcement of intellectual property rights at the border. The intellectual property border protection measures are carried out by the customs authorities according to Chapter IV (Title IX) of the Customs Code of the Republic of Moldova [No. 95/2021](#) and Section 8 of the Regulation implementing the Customs Code, approved by [Government Decision No. 92/2023](#).

National Agency for Food Safety (ANSA) is the administrative authority with national activity responsible for implementing the state policy in the field of regulation and control for food safety, carries out the control regarding the use of protected appellations of origin and protected geographical indications of wines, must-based products and wine-based products.

State inspectorate for the supervision of non-food products and consumer protection is responsible for overseeing and examination of the IPR contraventions as provided for in Contravention Code of the Republic of Moldova [No. 218/2008](#), in particular – illegal use of the appellations of origin of the product and of the geographical indications.

The criminal investigation body of the Ministry of Internal Affairs carries out the criminal investigation for any crime aimed at the violation of the right to industrial property objects, including with reference to appellations of origin and geographical indications, provided for in article 185² of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Moldova [No. 985/2002](#).

Name of Authorities or bodies	Address	Telephone number	E-mail	URL
Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova	Chisinau MD-2065, 30 N.Starostenco Street	+373 (22) 78-88-88	vama@customs.gov.md callcenter@customs.gov.md	https://customs.gov.md/en
The National Agency for Food Safety (ANSA)	Chisinau, MD-2009, 63 Mihail Kogalniceanu Street	+373 (22) 26-46-40	info@ansa.gov.md	https://www.ansa.gov.md/en
State Inspectorate for the supervision of non-food products and consumer protection	Chisinau, MD-2012, 78 Vasile Alecsandri Street	+373 (22) 51-51-51	secretariat@issnpc.gov.md	https://consumator.gov.md/eng