

Rights to geographical indications soon to be protected through the Russian Customs Register of Intellectual Property

Effective 6 March 2023, rights holders will be able to request that geographical indications be included* in the Russian Customs Register of Intellectual Property (the “**TROIS**”).

Including intellectual property in the TROIS has long been an effective way for rights holders to exercise control over the importation of goods containing the relevant IP to Russia and to combat illegal parallel imports and counterfeit goods.

Currently, only works protected by copyright and neighbouring rights, trademarks and appellations of origin can be included in the TROIS.

However, with the recognition of geographical indications as intellectual property in Russian law in 2019, it was a logical next step for lawmakers in Russia to allow geographical indications to be included in the TROIS for the purpose of exercising control over the importation of goods containing a geographical indication.

Once the changes take effect, we recommend that:

- rights holders using geographical indications on their products consider whether to include them in the TROIS for import control purposes;
- companies involved in importing products to Russia take into account the new rules when importing goods and the potential suspension of the release of goods due to the fact that they contain geographical indications.

* *In Russian*

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