



Controls of Geographical Indications (EU system)

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GI controls

- Any operator marketing a product conforming to a GI specifications shall be entitled to use the GI.
- Verification of compliance with the GI specifications shall be carried out before placing the product on the market.
- Member States shall prevent or stop the unlawful use of GIs in the market.

Controls at:

- Producer level (verification of compliance)
 - Market level (monitoring use in the market)
 - EU controls
- } Member States



Verification of compliance

Carried out by:

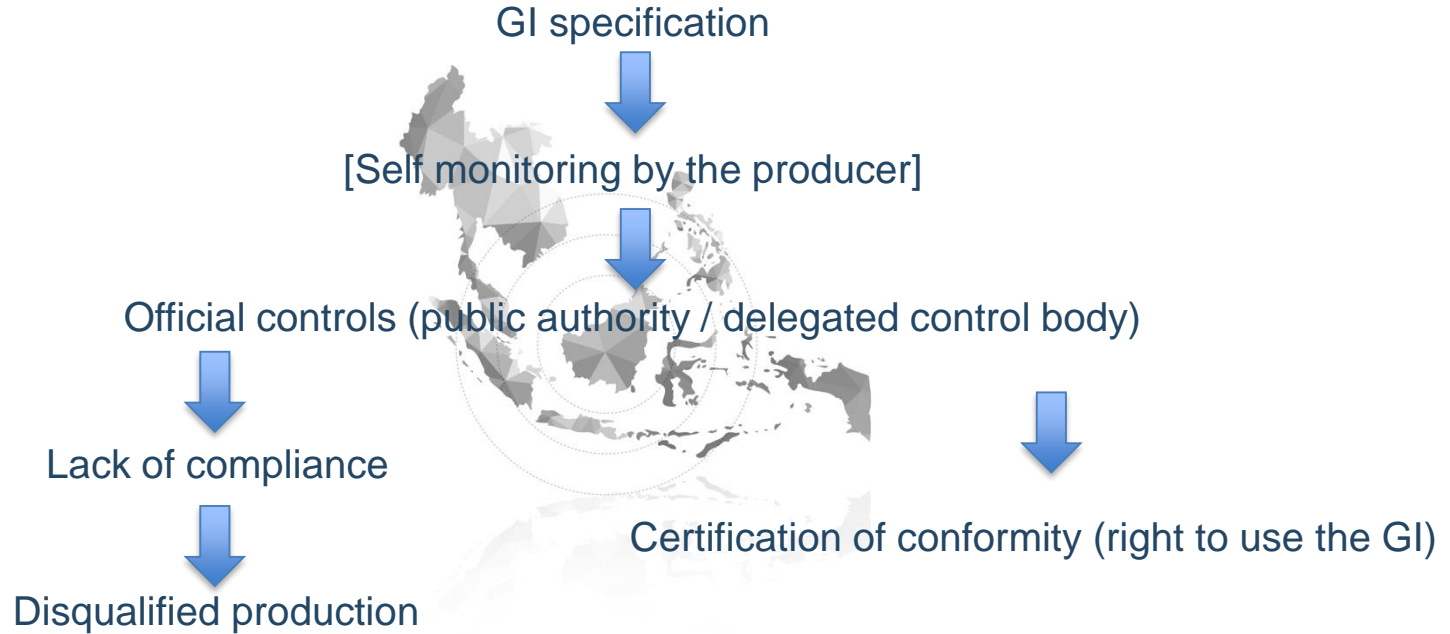
- Public authority
- Private control body

Accredited in accordance with ISO/ IEC 17065:2012 (*Requirements for bodies certifying products*)

Right to use the quality scheme: no obstacles to participation that are discriminatory or not objectively founded can be imposed to the operators willing to adhere.

Technical regulation: Regulation EU 2017/625 on official controls.





Controls in the marketplace

- **Carried out by** public authority (may be different from authority for verification of compliance), in implementation of the ex officio protection.
- EU's GIs and third countries' GIs.
- Operators who prepare and store a product marketed under a GI or who place such products on the market shall also be subject to the controls.
- Mainly **controls on** traceability, labelling, presentation, advertising and relevant packaging materials.
- **Remedies** (different national approaches): most common, administrative actions: fines, seizures, ordering the alteration of label, etc.



For an analysis of each MS national system and competent authorities designated (for controls of compliance and surveillance in the market), check **EUIPO's Observatory «Protection and Control of GIs for Agricultural Products in the EU Member States»**:

https://euipo.europa.eu/tunnel-web/secure/webdav/guest/document_library/observatory/documents/reports/Enforcement_of_GIs/EUIPO_Geographical_Indications_full_report_en.pdf



EU controls

With respect to **UE Member States** and **third countries**:

- Controls, including audits:
 - ✓ Verify the application of the rules for official controls (compliance an surveillance) for use and labelling of GIs / The compliance or equivalence of third-country legislation and systems on official controls.
 - ✓ Verify the functioning of national control systems / The capacity of the third country control system.
 - ✓ Investigate and collect information.
- Reports and recommendations.



THANK YOU

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