

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Japan Proposes GI Protection for Ten Alcoholic Beverages from the United Kingdom

Country: Japan

Post: Tokyo

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Beverages, Wine, Country/Regional FTA's

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Report Highlights:

Japan's National Tax Agency (NTA) published a list of 10 proposed geographical indications (GIs) for alcoholic beverages from the United Kingdom. NTA will accept public comments on the proposal through March 22, 2022.

General Information

After the Japan-European Union (EU) Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) went into effect on February 1, 2019, Japan's National Tax Agency (NTA) recognized geographical indication (GI) protections for 139 EU-produced alcoholic beverages (see [JA8003](#)), including Scotch Whisky. Following the United Kingdom's (UK) exit from the EU, Japan no longer offered GI protection for UK products. Per the 2021 [UK-Japan Comprehensive EPA](#) (see [JA2021-0005](#)), Japan recognized GIs for Scotch Whisky, UK-produced Irish Cream and UK-produced Irish Whisky.

On December 22, 2021, the NTA published a [list](#) of 10 more GIs for alcoholic beverages from the UK: 4 types of wine, 2 types of spirits, and 4 other categories of alcoholic beverages.

For five years from December 22, 2021, NTA no longer permits the use of these 10 terms (Table 1) in prior good-faith products distributed in Japan.

Table 1: EU Proposed 10 Alcoholic Beverages for GI Protection

ID#	Name	Type of Product
1	English	Wine
2	English Regional	Wine
3	Herefordshire cider	Other
4	Herefordshire perry	Other
5	Irish Poteen ¹ / Irish Poitín	Spirit
6	Kentish Ale	Other
7	Kentish Strong Ale	Other
8	Somerset Cider Brandy	Spirit
9	Welsh	Wine
10	Welsh Regional	Wine

Japan's GI System for Alcoholic Beverages

The World Trade Organization's (WTO) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) laid the foundation for the protection of GIs for wines and spirits. In 1994, the NTA established Japan's GI system for wines and spirits. In accordance with Article 86-6 of the [Act on Securing of Liquor Tax and on Liquor Business Associations](#), the NTA revised and published as [NTA Notification No. 19](#) the "Labeling Standards Regarding Geographical Indication of Alcoholic Beverages." Per the notification, the NTA established the [guideline](#) for how to handle GIs for alcoholic beverages. Japan's GI system allows for the registration of domestically produced alcoholic beverages ([21 product names](#)² as of December 2021) and the reciprocal recognition of GIs for alcoholic beverages from countries, with which Japan has concluded EPAs, free trade agreements and similar arrangements (145 EU products as of December 2021, see [JA8003](#) and [JA2020-0143](#) for further details).

¹ Under the existing GI protection first requested by the EU, Japan recognizes EU-produced Irish Poteen. UK has now requested GI protection for UK-produced Irish Poteen.

² The prefectural names of "Yamanashi", "Yamagata", and "Nagano" are protected for both wine and sake, and counted separately.

GI for Agricultural and Fishery Products

Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries oversees GI protections for food products under the [GI Act](#).

How to Submit Comments to the NTA

Comments on the list of the 10 UK alcohol products newly proposed for GI protection must be submitted in Japanese via mail, fax or the "[e-GOV](#)" system by March 22, 2022.

Mail:

International Negotiation Second Unit, Export Promotion Office, Liquor Tax Division,
Taxation Department, National Tax Agency
3-1-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 100-8978

Fax:

+81-3-3581-4182

Online:

[e-GOV](#). After agreeing to the conditions, click “意見入力へ” to submit your comment.

Attachments:

No Attachments.