

## **Lisbon System for the International Registration of Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications**

### **Amendments to the Common Regulations under the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration and the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications (as in force on February 26, 2020)**

1. At its thirty-eighth (24<sup>th</sup> ordinary) session, which took place in Geneva, from October 4 to 8, 2021, the Assembly of the Lisbon Union adopted amendments to the Common Regulations under the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration and the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications (hereinafter referred to as “the Common Regulations”) with respect to the inclusion of a new Rule *2bis* (see paragraph 22 of document LI/A/38/3/Prov., which is available at the following address:  
[https://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/govbody/en/li\\_a\\_38/li\\_a\\_38\\_3\\_prov.pdf](https://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/govbody/en/li_a_38/li_a_38_3_prov.pdf)).
2. Rule *2bis* was introduced to excuse a delay in meeting a time limit to perform a required action with WIPO due to a *force majeure* circumstance, e.g., COVID-19 pandemic. The amended provision is reproduced on page 2 of the present Information Notice.
3. These amendments to the Common Regulations, as adopted by the Assembly, will come into force on December 8, 2021 (see paragraph 14 of document LI/WG/DEV-SYS/3/4, which is available at the following address:  
[https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=522136](https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=522136)).
4. For more detailed background information concerning the amendments referred to above, reference is made to document LI/A/38/2, which is available at the following address:  
[https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=544231](https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=544231).

December 3, 2021

**Common Regulations  
under the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and  
their International Registration and the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on  
Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications**

(as in force on [December 8, 2021](#))

[...]

**CHAPTER I  
Introductory and General Provisions**

[...]

**Rule 2bis**

Excuse of Delay in Meeting Time Limits

(1) [Excuse in Delay in Meeting Time Limits due to Force Majeure Reasons] Failure by a Competent Authority or, in the case of Article 5(3) of the Geneva Act, beneficiaries or a natural person or legal entity referred to in Article 5(2)(ii) of that Act to meet a time limit specified in the Regulations to perform an action before the International Bureau shall be excused if the Competent Authority or, in the case of Article 5(3) of the Geneva Act, the beneficiaries or the natural person or legal entity referred to in Article 5(2)(ii) of that Act submit evidence showing, to the satisfaction of the International Bureau, that such failure was due to war, revolution, civil disorder, strike, natural calamity, irregularities in postal, delivery or electronic communication services owing to circumstances beyond the control of a Competent Authority or, in the case of Article 5(3) of the Geneva Act, beneficiaries or a natural person or legal entity referred to in Article 5(2)(ii) of that Act or other *force majeure* reason.

(2) [Limitation on Excuse] Failure to meet a time limit shall be excused under this Rule only if the evidence and action referred to in paragraph (1) are received by and performed before the International Bureau as soon as reasonably possible and not later than six months after the expiry of the time limit concerned.

[...]

[End of Annex and of document]