

Application Process for EU Protected Food Name status

Completing the form is a relatively simple process although it may take up to two years for a product to become registered. The following sets out the different stages of the process.

Submission of application form and supporting documentation to the relevant contact point for: England it is sent to irene.bocchetta@adas.co.uk, for Scotland to Kirsten.beddows@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, for Wales to Gez.Martin@Wales.gsi.gov.uk and for Northern Ireland to Daniel.Cartland@dardni.gsi.gov.uk



Examination of the application by the relevant authority. This involves exchange of correspondence, and meetings with the applicant to resolve any queries, in consultation with Defra if necessary.



Once an application has been completed and has been finally assessed by Defra, it is then goes onto National Consultation. The purpose of the consultation is two fold: to inform industry at large that a specific application is seeking protection **and** to attract admissible comments or objections for or against the application. The consultation takes 12 weeks. After this period the relevant authority will liaise between any objector and the applicant group in order to resolve any differences. Once this has been achieved the application is forwarded to Defra.



Final decision taken by Defra on eligibility of the application, if favourable, the decision to submit the application to the Commission is publicised offering a final opportunity for comments from interested parties. This process takes 14 working days



Once any comments/objections have been resolved the application and supporting documentation is submitted to the Commission.



Commission stage

Commission have 12 months within which to examine the application, which can involve requesting further information from the Member State. This stage may also involve the Commission seeking advice from a Scientific Committee set up for that purpose.



If the Commission is content, then details of the application are published in the Official Journal (OJ) and there is a further period of six months within which objections to the application may be made by either another Member State and Third (non EU) countries. If no admissible objections are received the name is now registered.



If the Commission rules that any objections made are admissible then there is a further period of six months in which the UK and the objecting Member State try to resolve the matter bilaterally.



If an acceptable resolution is found then the name is registered and publication to that effect is made in the OJ.



If the objections are unresolved then the final decision on registering the product is taken by the EU Standing Committee.