C/2026/6028

17.11.2026

Publication of the communication of an approved standard amendment to a product specification of a geographical indication in accordance with Article 5(4) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2025/27 [1]

(C/2026/6028)

COMMUNICATION OF APPROVAL OF A STANDARD AMENDMENT

(Article 24 of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143)

'Valle d'Aosta Lard d'Arnad / Vallée d'Aoste Lard d'Arnad'

EU reference number: PDO-IT-1493-AM01 – 19.8.2026

1. **Name of product**

'Valle d'Aosta Lard d'Arnad / Vallée d'Aoste Lard d'Arnad'

2. **Geographical indication type**

☑ PDO

☐ PGI

3. **Sector**

☑ Agricultural products

☐ Wines

☐ Spirit drinks

4. **Country to which the geographical area belongs**

Italy

5. **Member State authority communicating the standard amendment**

Name

Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forestry – Department for Food Sovereignty and Equestrian Sports

6. **Qualification as standard amendment**

The amendments to the product specification for Valle d'Aosta Lard d'Arnad PDO are not Union amendments as they do not fulfil the criteria laid down in Article 24 of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143, i.e. they:

— do not include a change in the name or in the use of the name;

— do not risk voiding the link to the geographical area referred to in the single document; and

— do not entail further restrictions on the marketing of the product.

7. **Description of the approved standard amendment(s)**

Title

Amendment to Article 2 – Cutting the pigs

[1] Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2025/27 of 30 October 2024 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2024/1143 of the European Parliament and of the Council with rules concerning the registration and the protection of geographical indications, traditional specialities guaranteed and optional quality terms and repealing Delegated Regulation (EU) No 664/2014 (OJ L, 2025/27, 15.1.2025, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2025/27/oj).

Description

Amendment 1

The amendment concerns Article 2, second paragraph, of the product specification and point 5 of the single document.

Description: The amendment specifies that the pigs must also be cut in the regions of Valle d'Aosta, Veneto, Lombardy, Emilia-Romagna and Piedmont.

Reason: The amendment clarifies that cutting operations must also take place within the pig rearing area, in line with Article 46 of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143.

☑ The amendment affects the single document.

Title

Amendment to Article 2 – Genetic characteristics

Description

Amendment 2

The amendment concerns Article 2, second and third paragraphs, of the product specification but does not affect the single document.

Description: The amendment inserts a specific section on 'Genetic characteristics'. The genetic origin of the raw material has been clarified in relation to the genetic type of the breeding animals, both male and female, by including the permitted genetic combinations. The reference in the text to the provisions on breeds for Prosciutto di Parma PDO and Prosciutto di San Daniele PDO has therefore been replaced.

Reason: The amendment clarifies the permitted combinations of breeding crosses. Assessing the breed and genetic type of both breeding animals is important for maintaining the characteristics of heavy pigs, particularly as regards assessing compatibility with the three reference breeds in the Italian Herd Book intended for heavy pig production.

☐ The amendment affects the single document.

Title

Amendment to Article 2 – Table of genetic requirements

Description

Amendment 3

The amendment concerns Article 2, second and third paragraphs, of the product specification but does not affect the single document.

Description: The amendment inserts a table explaining the genetic requirements for pigs, showing the permitted and non-permitted combinations.

Reason: The inclusion of the table provides greater clarity in the definition of the only possible combinations of genetic crossing.

☐ The amendment affects the single document.

Title

Amendment to Article 2 – Update to the list of genetic types

Description

Amendment 4

The amendment concerns Article 2, second and third paragraphs, of the product specification but does not affect the single document.

Description: The amendment inserts a reference to the list of genetic types approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forestry.

Reason: The reference to the list and its updating makes it possible to better monitor the product chain.

☐ The amendment affects the single document.

Title

Amendment to Article 2 – Types of meat not permitted

Description

Amendment 5

The amendment concerns Article 2, second and third paragraphs, of the product specification but does not affect the single document.

Description: The amendment prevents the use of meat from boars and sows and from pigs carrying unfavourable traits (PSS – Porcine Stress Syndrome).

Reason: The amendment is appropriate in order to clarify that meat from boars and sows and from pigs carrying unfavourable traits is unsuitable for use in the production of Lard d'Arnad. This is in line with the current practice, based up to now on a reference to the product specifications for Prosciutto di Parma PDO and Prosciutto di San Daniele PDO.

☐ The amendment affects the single document.

Title

Amendment to Article 2 – 'Rearing and feeding' section

Description

Amendment 6

The amendment concerns Article 2, second and third paragraphs, of the product specification but does not affect the single document.

Description: The amendment adds a specific section on 'Rearing and feeding'. The traditional chronological stages of the rearing of pigs have been added: suckling, weaning, growing and finishing, thus replacing the reference to Prosciutto di Parma PDO and Prosciutto di San Daniele PDO.

Reason: The amendment specifies the stages of heavy pig rearing already included in the product specifications to which the product specification being amended refers.

☐ The amendment affects the single document.

Title

Amendment to Article 2 – Suckling stage

Description

Amendment 7

The amendment concerns Article 2, second and third paragraphs, of the product specification but does not affect the single document.

Description: The amendment inserts provisions on the suckling stage of piglets, the duration of which, up to at least 28 days, is in line with the provisions of Section C of Chapter II of Annex I to Directive 2008/120/EC. References have also been inserted to piglets being nursed by the sow or being fed milk artificially, the administration of permitted raw materials and the use of minerals, vitamin and amino acid supplements, and additives.

Reason: The amendment defines precisely the characteristics of the suckling stage in line with the provisions of European Union legislation. The use of vitamin, mineral and amino acid supplements, and of additives, ensures proper muscular growth and aids digestion and nutrient absorption.

☐ The amendment affects the single document.

Title

Amendment to Article 2 – Ink slap mark of origin

Description

Amendment 8

The amendment concerns Article 2, second and third paragraphs, of the product specification but does not affect the single document.

Description: The amendment lays down the methods and timing for applying the ink slap mark of origin on both legs of each pig and the associated slap mark and plate models for applying it.

Reason: The amendment precisely regulates the tools and required steps for ensuring the tracking and traceability of the raw material for Lard d'Arnad from the first stage of rearing, using the tools already in use, which comply with the specifications introduced.

☐ The amendment affects the single document.

Title

Amendment to Article 2 – Letter representing the month of birth

Description

Amendment 9

The amendment concerns Article 2, second and third paragraphs, of the product specification but does not affect the single document.

Description: The amendment inserts a reference table showing which letter should be used to represent the month of birth of the piglet, to be included in the slap mark of origin.

Reason: The amendment provides maximum clarity and transparency in the tracking and traceability of the pigs used to produce 'Valle d'Aosta Lard d'Arnad' so as to facilitate checking the age of pigs at the rearing and slaughter stages.

☐ The amendment affects the single document.

Title

Amendment to Article 2 – Identification devices used instead of or in combination with the ink slap mark of origin

Description

Amendment 10

The amendment concerns Article 2, second and third paragraphs, of the product specification but does not affect the single document.

Description: The amendment adds the possibility of using identification devices instead of, or in combination with, the slap mark of origin applied by the farmer.

Reason: The use of identification devices instead of or in combination with the slap mark of origin allows for other tracking and tracing tools in line with technological developments.

☐ The amendment affects the single document.

Title

Amendment to Article 2 – Determining the age of the pigs

Description

Amendment 11

The amendment concerns Article 2, second and third paragraphs, of the product specification but does not affect the single document.

Description: The amendment inserts a rule for determining the age of the pigs in months.

Reason: The amendment makes it possible to unequivocally and unambiguously check the age of pigs at the rearing and slaughter stages.

☐ The amendment affects the single document.

Title

Amendment to Article 2 – Weaning stage

Description

Amendment 12

The amendment concerns Article 2, second and third paragraphs, of the product specification but does not affect the single document.

Description: The amendment inserts provisions regarding the pigs' weaning stage. Rules have been introduced governing the duration of this stage, the maximum weight of the piglets and feeding. A reference has been introduced to the administration of 'dry feed', the use of vitamin, mineral and amino acid supplements, and the use of additives. The weaning period has been increased from 80 days to three months and the maximum weight limit for the piglets has been set at 40 kg.

Reason: The amendment lays down two parameters – duration and maximum weight – that ensure the gradual and balanced growth of the pigs during the weaning stage. During this stage, the pigs may be fed on all the raw materials permitted by the rules in force so as to ensure that their nutritional, animal welfare and health needs are met. Providing for the administration of dry feed allows the farmer to choose which method to use. The use of vitamin, mineral and amino acid supplements, and of additives, ensures proper muscular growth and aids digestion and nutrient absorption.

☐ The amendment affects the single document.

Title

Amendment to Article 2 – Growing stage

Description

Amendment 13

The amendment concerns Article 2, second and third paragraphs, of the product specification but does not affect the single document.

Description: The amendment inserts provisions on the growing stage, setting a maximum duration of five months and increasing the weight that may be achieved at the end of the stage from 80 kg to 85 kg.

A reference to tolerances on individual raw materials has been specified in accordance with Article 17(2)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 767/2009, deleting the reference to the percentage of 10 %. The possibility for the farmer to administer the feed also in dry form has been expressly added.

The 'Table of permitted raw materials' has been inserted and is also to be used for the next stage, i.e. finishing. The names of the following raw materials have been amended, taking into account the nomenclature provided for in the European Union rules laid down in Regulation (EU) No 68/2013, as updated by Regulation (EU) 2017/1017:

— 'maize' is no longer referred to in Italian as '*mais*' but instead as '*granturco*';

— 'semolina' is now referred to as 'meal';

— 'dehydrated lucerne meal' is now referred to as 'lucerne (high temperature dried)';

— 'linseed expeller' is no longer referred to in Italian as '*expeller di lino*' but instead as '*panello di lino*', and the following have been added to it: 'linseed expeller feed', 'linseed meal', 'linseed meal feed';

— 'apple and pear pomace, grape or tomato skins as carriers for nutritional supplements' are now referred to as 'fruit pulp and tomato pulp (tomato pomace) as premix carriers';

— 'brewers' yeast and/or torula yeast' is now referred to as 'yeasts';

— 'maize germ extraction meal' (using the word '*mais*' in Italian) is now referred to as 'maize germ meal' (using the word '*granturco*' in Italian);

— 'distillers' grain' is now referred to as 'dried distillers' grains and solubles'.

The following raw materials have been removed:

— 'pitted carob';

— 'protein lysates';

— 'dehydrated potato';

— 'cassava';

— 'pressed and ensiled beet pulp';

— 'sesame meal';

— 'coconut extraction meal';

— 'meat meal only if of good quality and where permitted by Community law'.

The word 'oats' has been deleted from the 'minor cereals' category.

The quantity of the following raw materials has been changed:

— 'buttermilk' for the growing stage only (which changes to a maximum of 250 g per head per day of dry matter), without prejudice to the fact that 'whey' and 'buttermilk' taken together must not exceed 15 litres per head per day;

— 'maize gluten meal and/or corn gluten feed' (from up to 5 % to up to 10 %);

— 'maize' (from up to 55 % to up to 65 %);

— 'sorghum' (from up to 40 % to up to 55 %);

— 'barley' (from up to 40 % to up to 55 %);

— 'wheat' (from up to 25 % to up to 55 %);

— 'triticale' (from up to 25 % to up to 55 %);

— 'dehydrated beet pulp' (from up to 4 % to up to 10 %);

— 'lucerne, high temperature dried' (from up to 2 % to up to 4 %).

The following raw materials have been added:

— ‘maize gluten meal and/or corn gluten feed’, also during the finishing stage;

— ‘maize silage’, also during the finishing stage;

— ‘whole ear maize meal’;

— ‘dried distillers’ grains and solubles’, also during the finishing stage;

— ‘linseed expeller feed, linseed meal, linseed meal feed’;

— ‘lipids with a melting point above 36 °C’, also during the finishing stage;

— ‘products obtained during extraction of rapeseed’;

— ‘toasted whole soya beans and/or soya expeller’, only for the growing stage.

The raw material ‘peas and/or other legume seeds’ has been divided into two entries: ‘peas’ and ‘other legume seeds’, and the quantities have been increased (‘peas’ up to 25 % and ‘other legume seeds’ up to 10 %).

Regarding ‘grain and/or cob meal’, it has been specified that this concerns ‘maize grain and/or corn cob’.

‘Soya extraction meal’ has become ‘products obtained during extraction of soya beans’, and the use percentage during both the growing and finishing stages has been standardised at up to 20 %.

‘Sunflower meal’ has been changed to ‘products obtained during extraction of sunflower seeds’, the use of which has been set at up to 10 %.

Note 4 to the table lays down a maximum crude fat content not exceeding 2,5 % of the dry matter for products obtained during extraction of soya beans, sunflower seeds and rapeseed.

The option of using minerals, vitamins and additives has been added.

In note 2 the definition of ‘dried distillers’ grains and solubles’ has been made clearer.

In addition to the maximum limit of 2 % for linoleic acid, the amendment introduces a maximum fat limit of 5 % of the dry matter of the diet.

Reason: The maximum weight has been set at 85 kg – instead of 80 kg – due to developments in genetics, nutrition and animal welfare standards, which have led to an improvement in pigs’ ability to grow. The maximum duration – five months – has been added to ensure that growth is balanced before the finishing stage.

The reference to the tolerances on individual raw materials makes it possible to come into line with the feed legislation in force, namely Article 17(2)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 767/2009.

Providing for the administration of dry feed allows the farmer to choose which method to use.

The insertion of a single ‘Table of permitted raw materials’ for both the growing and finishing stages makes the product specification easier to read.

The names of the raw materials have been changed in line with the provisions of Commission Regulation (EU) No 68/2013, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2017/1017. Updating the terminology is necessary to give a clearer indication of the type of raw material being referred to.

The reference to ‘oats’ has been deleted as it falls within the ‘minor cereals’ category.

‘Meat meal’ has been removed as it is no longer used given the regulatory restrictions introduced in the recent past.

The raw materials 'pitted carob', 'protein lysates', 'dehydrated potato', 'cassava', 'beet, pressed and ensiled wet pulp', 'sesame meal' and 'coconut extraction meal' have been removed, as these raw materials are barely grown in the geographical area where the pigs are reared, or no longer grown at all, or are difficult to source, of low nutritional value or are not used for technical and quality-related reasons. The amendment thus removes the possibility of using raw materials from outside the pig-rearing area that were already being used only in negligible quantities, if at all. Instead, other, local raw materials are being used, thus strengthening the link between 'Valle d'Aosta Lard d'Arnad' and the geographical area.

In particular, greater focus has been placed on the importance of a cereal-based diet, with an increase in the percentages of 'maize', 'barley', 'sorghum', 'wheat' and 'triticale', since these feeds have always been the basis for the traditional diet of the pigs. Moreover, these feeds are typically grown, frequently by the farmers themselves, in the geographical area, thus strengthening the link with the area; they also ensure that the pigs have appropriate fat cover for the production of 'Valle d'Aosta Lard d'Arnad'.

'Maize silage' and 'dried distillers' grains and solubles', the latter being rich in vitamin B, have now been added for the finishing stage as they are ideal raw materials that ensure an adequate level of fat cover and, due to their fibre content, are much better digested by adult pigs than by young pigs.

'Whole ear maize meal', which is very rich in fibre, is used as an alternative to bran for feeding fibre to the animals.

The reason for the increase in 'dehydrated beet pulp' is that it is a very good, very fibrous product; the fibre content is highly digestible in the large intestine and is thus a suitable product for adult animals.

Use of the raw materials 'buttermilk' (in the growing stage), 'lucerne (high temperature dried)' and 'products obtained during extraction of sunflower seeds' has been increased due to their availability in the traditional production area and scientific findings made by the feed industry over the last decade.

The increased use of 'maize gluten meal and/or corn gluten feed' is linked to its high protein content, which is useful in the diet (crude protein) and highly digestible.

The use of 'lipids with a melting point above 36 °C' has been introduced for both the growing and finishing stages, since the fact that the new 5 % limit on fat in the dry matter in the diet has been added to the 2 % limit on linoleic acid ensures that, if lard is used during the finishing stage, the pigs have an adequate level of fat cover.

It has been specified that 'grain and/or cob meal' refers to 'maize grain and/or corn cob', as the term 'cob' could also refer to other cereals.

'Linseed expeller feed', 'linseed meal' and 'linseed meal feed' have been added in addition to 'linseed expeller' as they are similar raw materials and are included in Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1017.

'Toasted whole soya beans and/or soya expeller' has been added as, during the growing stage, soya provides energy that is essential to meet the pigs' energy needs.

The use of 'peas' and 'other legume seeds' has been increased because these are raw materials that grow in the production area; 'peas' also ensure the quality of the pigs' fat cover and, unlike other legumes, contain a low concentration of antinutritional factors.

With regard to 'products obtained during extraction of soya beans', the percentage has been set at 20 % during both the growing and finishing stages, in order to ensure that the pigs have suitable fat cover. The products were previously covered by a single entry, e.g. 'soya (bean) meal' in Regulation (EU) No 575/2011, and then split into two entries, 'soya (bean) meal' and 'soya (bean) meal feed', in 2013 in Regulation (EU) No 68/2013, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2017/1017. Regulation (EU) 2017/1017 lists many different products obtained during the extraction of soya beans; it is not feasible to list them all and they are liable to change in the event of updates/amendments to Regulation (EU) 2017/1017. A maximum crude fat content of 2,5 % of the dry matter has been laid down in the notes to the table of permitted raw materials in order to ensure appropriate fat cover.

Regarding 'products obtained during extraction of sunflower seeds', now fixed at 10 %: the crude fat content of the raw material is important in order ensure that the pigs have suitable fat cover; therefore, a maximum crude fat content of 2,5 % of the dry matter has been included in the notes to the table of permitted raw materials. The products were previously covered by a single entry, e.g. 'sunflower seed meal' in Regulation (EU) No 575/2011, and then split into two entries, 'sunflower seed meal' and 'sunflower seed meal feed', in 2013 in Regulation (EU) No 68/2013, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2017/1017. Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1017 lists many different products obtained during the extraction of sunflower seeds; it is not feasible to list them all and they are liable to change in the event of updates/amendments to Regulation (EU) 2017/1017.

With regard to 'products obtained during extraction of rapeseed', 'rapeseed' has been newly introduced into the list of raw materials because progress in genetics has allowed the selection of new varieties that are free of glucosinolates and erucic acid (antinutritional factors); the entry has been worded to match the structure used for soya and sunflower products. The products were previously covered by a single entry, e.g. 'rape seed meal' in Regulation (EU) No 575/2011, and then split into two entries, 'rape seed meal' and 'rape seed meal feed', in 2013 in Regulation (EU) No 68/2013, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2017/1017. Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1017 lists many different products obtained during the extraction of rapeseed; it is not feasible to list all the raw materials and they are liable to change in the event of updates to Regulation (EU) 2017/1017. A maximum crude fat content of 2,5 % of the dry matter has been laid down in the notes to the table of permitted raw materials in order to ensure fat cover suitable for the production of 'Valle d'Aosta Lard d'Arnad'.

The use of vitamins, minerals and additives ensures proper muscular growth and aids digestion and nutrient absorption.

The definition of 'dried distillers' grains and solubles' has been clarified by using the wording in point 1.12.9 of Regulation (EU) 2017/1017.

The maximum fat limit, added to the linoleic acid limit, ensures a suitable level of fat cover for the production of 'Valle d'Aosta Lard d'Arnad'; these two criteria are essential, as raw materials that are potential sources of fats capable of having a negative impact on the quality of the pigs' fat cover have either been increased (maize) or introduced (lipids with a melting point above 36 °C for the finishing stage too).

☐ The amendment affects the single document.

Title

Amendment to Article 2 – Origin of the dry matter of the pig feed

Description

Amendment 14

The amendment concerns Article 2, second and third paragraphs, of the product specification and point 4.3 of the single document.

Description: The amendment inserts a provision that at least 50 % of the dry matter of the pig feed, on an annual basis, must come from the geographical area in which the pigs are reared.

Reason: The raw materials on which the pigs are fed come from the geographical area in which they are reared. However, it may not be technically possible, for climate-related and commercial reasons, to obtain 100 % of the raw materials locally. In any case, the qualities of 'Valle d'Aosta Lard d'Arnad' and its link to the area are always guaranteed by the fact that at least 50 % of the dry matter in the feed ration on an annual basis is sourced from the geographical area of rearing, in line with Article 47(2) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143.

☑ The amendment affects the single document.

Title

Amendment to Article 2 – Finishing stage

Description

Amendment 15

The amendment concerns Article 2, second and third paragraphs, of the product specification but does not affect the single document.

Description: The amendment, in the rules on the feeding of pigs relating to the finishing stage, refers back to the 'Table of permitted raw materials' included in the growing stage, with certain specifications necessary for the finishing stage.

Reason: The amendment provides a clear picture of the feed permitted during the finishing stage too.

☐ The amendment affects the single document.

Title

Amendment to Article 2 – 'Slaughter and cutting' section

Description

Amendment 16

The amendment concerns Article 2, fourth paragraph, of the product specification but does not affect the single document.

Description: The amendment introduces the section 'Slaughter and cutting' and rewords the provision regarding the minimum age of the pig at slaughter, without amending it, linking it to the check by means of the slap mark of origin and/or the identification device replacing or combined with the slap mark of origin, described in the part concerning the feeding and rearing of pigs.

Reason: This amendment makes the product specification clearer in relation to the slaughter stage, including with reference to technological developments. Indicating the method for calculating pigs' age makes it possible for operators and the control body to calculate it correctly and unequivocally.

☐ The amendment affects the single document.

Title

Amendment to Article 2 – Determining the age of the pigs for slaughter

Description

Amendment 17

The amendment concerns Article 2, fourth paragraph, of the product specification but does not affect the single document.

Description: The amendment inserts the criterion for calculating the age of pigs for the purpose of slaughter.

Reason: The amendment clarifies the product specification for operators and for control purposes.

☐ The amendment affects the single document.

Title

Amendment to Article 2 – Commercial classes of carcasses

Description

Amendment 18

The amendment concerns Article 2, fourth paragraph, of the product specification but does not affect the single document.

Description: The amendment rewords the reference to the use of H Heavy carcasses, from which the fresh cuts of fat [*baffe*] used to produce 'Valle d'Aosta Lard d'Arnad' are obtained.

Reason: The amendment clarifies the product specification and updates the reference to the European Union legislation in force.

☐ The amendment affects the single document.

Title

Amendment to Article 2 – Individual carcass weight

Description

Amendment 19

The amendment concerns Article 2, fourth paragraph, of the product specification but does not affect the single document.

Description: The amendment replaces the parameter of a live weight of the pig of 160 kg +/– 10 % with an individual carcass weight of between 110,1 kg and 190,0 kg, ascertained at the time of slaughter.

Reason: The elimination of live weight and the inclusion of the criterion of individual carcass weight allow for a more precise check on the eligibility requirements for each pig slaughtered, as it is a more transparent, accurate, targeted and generally better method. The increase in pig weight is linked to the current trend in European pig farming resulting from improved genetics, animal welfare and nutrition.

☐ The amendment affects the single document.

Title

Amendment to Article 2 – Cutting operations

Description

Amendment 20

The amendment concerns Article 2, fourth paragraph, of the product specification but does not affect the single document.

Description: The amendment specifies that cutting operations may also be carried out in cutting plants other than the slaughterhouse which slaughtered the animals.

Reason: The provision identifies a new arrangement for cutting carcasses that is in line with Annex III, Section I, Chapter V to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004.

☐ The amendment affects the single document.

Title

Amendment to Article 2 – Temperature at which the cuts of fat are stored

Description

Amendment 21

The amendment concerns Article 2, fourth paragraph, of the product specification but does not affect the single document.

Description: The amendment inserts rules on the temperature at which the cuts of fat separated from the carcass are to be stored until they are transported and delivered to the producers, with a temperature range of between –1 °C and +4 °C being introduced.

Reason: The amendment guarantees the continuity of the cold chain, preventing microbial growth and stopping the cuts of fat turning rancid, thus ensuring that 'Valle d'Aosta Lard d'Arnad' is produced correctly and that the taste and smell characteristics referred to in Article 6 of the product specification are obtained.

☐ The amendment affects the single document.

Title

Amendment to Article 2 – Removal of the provision on the slaughterhouse certificate

Description

Amendment 22

The amendment concerns Article 2, fifth paragraph, of the product specification but does not affect the single document.

Description: The amendment removes Article 2, fifth paragraph, of the product specification.

Reason: The removal is necessary as the provisions concern the control system.

☐ The amendment affects the single document.

Title

Amendment to Article 3 – Correction of an inaccuracy

Description

Amendment 23

The amendment concerns Article 3, second paragraph, of the product specification but does not affect the single document.

Description: The amendment replaces the Italian word '*predominati*' with '*predominanti*'.

Reason: The amendment is necessary to correct a clerical error in the text of the product specification, as per the application for a standard amendment concerning the PDO published in *Official Journal of the European Union* 2010/C 222 of 17.8.2010, in which Amendment 2 reads '*essere predominanti*' in Italian.

☐ The amendment affects the single document.

Title

Amendment 4 – Time limit for cutting the fat and placing it in containers

Description

Amendment 24

The amendment concerns Article 4, third paragraph, of the product specification and point 4.2 of the single document.

Description: The amendment replaces '48 hours' with 'six days' as the time limit for cutting the fact and placing it in the wooden containers (*doils*).

Reason: The amendment is necessary so as to make it easier for undertakings to be supplied with the raw material needed to produce the PDO, since the Valle d'Aosta Lard d'Arnad production area, which is located within the Alps, faces logistical and infrastructural challenges typical of mountain areas. The fact that the cold chain is maintained means that the raw material remains fit for use even with an increase in the period within which the fat must be cut and placed in the wooden containers.

☑ The amendment affects the single document.

Title

Amendment to Article 4 – Trimming operations

Description

Amendment 25

The amendment concerns Article 4, fifth paragraph, of the product specification but does not affect the single document.

Description: The amendment introduces into the product specification a description of the optional trimming operations.

Reason: The amendment specifies how to perform the optional trimming operations, which may be repeated a number of times. These operations make it possible to correct any imperfections in the cut and make the surface of the fat more uniform, thus facilitating the subsequent action of the brine.

☐ The amendment affects the single document.

Title

Amendment to Article 4 – Temperature of the cuts of fat up until they are placed in containers

Description

Amendment 26

The amendment concerns Article 4, fifth paragraph, of the product specification but does not affect the single document.

Description: The amendment introduces an obligation to keep the fresh cuts of fat within a set temperature range, between –1 °C and +4 °C, until they are placed in the *doils*.

Reason: The amendment clarifies the conditions in which the cuts of fat are to be kept before being placed in the *doils*, thus ensuring that they remain fresh so that the taste and smell characteristics referred to in Article 6 of the product specification can be obtained. The amendment allows the requirements to be precisely checked all along the production chain.

☐ The amendment affects the single document.

Title

Amendment to Article 5 – Minimum curing period

Description

Amendment 27

The amendment concerns Article 5, first paragraph, of the product specification and point 4.2 of the single document.

Description: The amendment replaces 'three months' with '90 days' as the minimum period for which the fat is to be cured and specifies how the number of days is to be counted.

Reason: The amendment makes it possible to exactly specify the minimum duration of curing, which will facilitate the work of the producers registered in the PDO control system and the controls.

☑ The amendment affects the single document.

Title

Amendment to Article 6 – Timing of determination of the product characteristics

Description

Amendment 28

The amendment concerns Article 6 of the product specification and point 4.2 of the single document.

Description: The amendment specifies that the characteristics of 'Valle d'Aosta Lard d'Arnad' referred to in Article 6 must exist at the end of curing and are necessary in order for it to be released for consumption.

Reason: The amendment is necessary so as to clarify that the *lardo* must have the characteristics laid down in the product specification as at the end of curing; this will also be useful for the control system.

☑ The amendment affects the single document.

Title

Amendment to Article 7 – Removal of the provision on controls

Description

Amendment 29

The amendment concerns Article 7 of the product specification but does not affect the single document.

Description: The amendment removes the provision of Article 7 concerning controls.

Reason: Removing this provision is necessary as it concerns the control system.

☐ The amendment affects the single document.

Title

Amendment to Article 8 – Renumbering of Article 8

Description

Amendment 30

The amendment concerns Article 8 of the product specification but does not affect the single document.

Description: The amendment renumbers Article 8 as Article 7.

Reason: The amendment is necessary given the product specification's new article structure.

☐ The amendment affects the single document.

Title

Amendment to Article 8 – Specifications concerning the product name

Description

Amendment 31

The amendment concerns Article 8, first paragraph, of the product specification and point 4.6 of the single document.

Description: The amendment introduces the option of using the abbreviation 'DOP' [PDO] instead of the wording 'Denominazione di origine protetta' [Protected Designation of Origin] for 'Valle d'Aosta Lard d'Arnad', the full and correct name of which has been inserted into the provision.

Reason: The amendment brings the product specification into line with the European Union rules in force, laid down in Article 37(6) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143, and with the exact way in which the name is registered as a PDO.

☑ The amendment affects the single document.

Title

Amendment to Article 8 – European Union PDO symbol

Description

Amendment 32

The amendment concerns Article 8, first paragraph, of the product specification and point 4.6 of the single document.

Description: The amendment introduces a provision on using the European Union PDO symbol together with the name 'Valle d'Aosta Lard d'Arnad'.

Reason: The amendment makes it possible to come into line with Article 37(3) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143.

☐ The amendment affects the single document.

Title

Amendment to Article 8 – Mentioning the producer on product labels

Description

Amendment 33

The amendment concerns Article 8, second paragraph, of the product specification and point 4.6 of the single document.

Description: The amendment introduces the obligation for the name or business name and/or brand and the address of the producer of the 'Valle d'Aosta Lard d'Arnad' to be mentioned on the label of the PDO.

Reason: The amendment is intended to be useful for consumers and to give 'Valle d'Aosta Lard d'Arnad' PDO producers visibility on labels.

☑ The amendment affects the single document.

Title

Amendment to Article 8 – Forms in which the product is marketed

Description

Amendment 34

The amendment concerns Article 8, fifth paragraph, of the product specification and point 4.5 of the single document.

Description: The amendment introduces into Article 7 of the product specification a specific paragraph on the product types and forms in which 'Valle d'Aosta Lard d'Arnad' is marketed: in pieces, as provided for by Article 6; or sliced.

Reason: The amendment introduces into the product specification a precise indication of the product types and forms in which 'Valle d'Aosta Lard d'Arnad' must be marketed, helping to ensure that it is distinctive for consumers, including in the light of the growing importance on the market of pre-packed products.

☑ The amendment affects the single document.

Title

Amendment to Article 8 – Rules on the rind

Description

Amendment 35

The amendment concerns Article 8, fifth paragraph, of the product specification and point 4.5 of the single document.

Description: The amendment introduces the option, at the end of curing, to remove the rind from cured slabs of *lardo* intended for packing or for subsequent slicing, with it being laid down that the rind must be packed together with the slab of *lardo*.

Reason: The amendment is necessary since, for commercial reasons and so as to optimise the work of slicers, producers may be asked to supply the packed PDO with its rind already removed. In such cases, in line with the characteristic referred to in Article 6 whereby the rind must be present on the side of the product, the rind must be packed together with the slab of *lardo*.

☑ The amendment affects the single document.

Title

Insertion of a new Article 8 concerning the link with the environment

Description

Amendment 36

The amendment concerns the insertion of Article 8 of the product specification but does not affect the single document.

Description: The amendment inserts into the product specification a new Article 8 'Link with the environment', which describes how 'Valle d'Aosta Lard d'Arnad' is linked with the environment, using the information given in the application for registration, i.e. the summary sheet (point 5, paragraph (f)), sent to the European Commission in 1994 pursuant to the then applicable Article 17 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2081/92 of 14 July 1992.

Reason: The insertion is necessary to come into line with the European Union legislation in force, laid down in Article 49(1) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143.

☐ The amendment affects the single document.

Title

Insertion of a new Article 9 concerning proof of origin

Description

Amendment 37

The amendment concerns the insertion of Article 9 of the product specification but does not affect the single document.

Description: The amendment inserts into the product specification Article 9 'Proof of origin', specifying that it is necessary for all the categories of party in the PDO production chain to be monitored and placed under the control of the delegated body so as to ensure that the product the name of which is registered is trackable and traceable.

Reason: The insertion of the article is necessary to bring the product specification into line with the European Union rules in force, laid down in Article 20 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/26.

☐ The amendment affects the single document.

SINGLE DOCUMENT

Designations of origin and geographical indications of agricultural products

'Valle d'Aosta Lard d'Arnad / Vallée d'Aoste Lard d'Arnad'

EU reference number: PDO-IT-1493-AM01 – 19.8.2026

1. **Name(s)**

'Valle d'Aosta Lard d'Arnad / Vallée d'Aoste Lard d'Arnad'

2. **Geographical indication type**

☑ PDO

☐ PGI

3. **Country to which the defined geographical area belongs**

Italy

4. **Description of the agricultural product**

4.1. *Classification of the agricultural product in accordance with the Combined Nomenclature heading and code, as referred to in Article 6(1) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143*

16 – PREPARATIONS OF MEAT, OF FISH, OF CRUSTACEANS, MOLLUSCS OR OTHER AQUATIC INVERTEBRATES, OR OF INSECTS

4.2. *Description of the agricultural product to which the registered name applies*

'Valle d'Aosta Lard d'Arnad' / 'Vallée d'Aoste Lard d'Arnad' is a pigmeat product, salted and naturally cured, produced from the shoulder and back of pigs at least nine months old and, when released for consumption, has a layer of fat at least 3 cm thick.

The fat must be cut and placed in special wooden containers (*doils*) within not more than six days of the day following slaughter.

The wood used to make the *doils* must be either chestnut, oak or larch.

When the fat is being placed in the *doils*, each layer of fat alternates with a layer of salt and natural flavourings, continuing in that manner until the container is full; everything is then covered with salted water that has first been brought to the boil and left to cool in order to make the brine needed to preserve the fat.

The fat must rest inside the *doils* for a period of not less than 90 days starting from the day on which it is placed in the wooden containers, counting both the day it is put in and the day it is taken out.

At the end of curing, and in order to be released for consumption, 'Valle d'Aosta Lard d'Arnad' must have the following characteristics:

Physical characteristics

Shape: in pieces of various sizes depending on the cut and the technique, with the fat being no less than 3 cm thick. Each piece retains the rind on its side.

External appearance: white in colour with the possible presence of a thin layer of meat, while the interior is normally light pink without marbling.

Organoleptic characteristics

Smell: rich in aromas.

Taste: a pleasant taste reminiscent of the herbs used in the brine mixture.

4.3. *Derogations on sourcing of feed (for products of animal origin designated by a protected designation of origin only) and restrictions on sourcing of raw materials (for processed products designated by a protected geographical indication only)*

The raw materials for the pigs come from the geographical area of rearing. However, in some years it may not be technically possible, for climate-related or commercial reasons, to obtain 100 % of the raw materials for the pigs locally. In these cases, in accordance with Article 47(2) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143, in order to guarantee the link with the territory and the quality of 'Valle d'Aosta Lard d'Arnad', it is always ensured that at least 50 % of the dry matter of the raw materials for the pigs, on an annual basis, comes from the geographical area of rearing.

4.4. *Specific steps in production that must take place in the identified geographical area*

The production of 'Valle d'Aosta Lard d'Arnad', from salting to curing, takes place entirely within the geographical area comprising the municipality of Arnad (Autonomous Region of Valle d'Aosta).

4.5. *Specific rules concerning packaging, slicing, grating, etc. of the agricultural product the registered name refers to*

'Valle d'Aosta Lard d'Arnad' may be marketed:

— in pieces; or

— sliced.

When the product is being packed, it is permitted for the rind to be removed in advance by the producer company; in such cases, the rind must be packed together with the slab of *lardo*.

4.6. *Specific rules concerning labelling of the agricultural product the registered name refers to*

The term 'Valle d'Aosta Lard d'Arnad' must feature in clear and indelible characters, clearly separate from all other wordings, and be followed by the words 'Denominazione di Origine Protetta' [Protected Designation of Origin] or the abbreviation 'DOP' [PDO] and be accompanied by the European Union PDO symbol.

The name may be given in Italian, 'Valle d'Aosta Lard d'Arnad', or in French, 'Vallée d'Aoste Lard d'Arnad'.

The label must feature the name or business name and/or brand and the address of the producer of the 'Valle d'Aosta Lard d'Arnad'.

These indications may feature together with the logo of the designation.

It is forbidden to add any description that is not expressly provided for.

5. **Concise definition of the geographical area**

The 'Valle d'Aosta Lard d'Arnad' production area is the geographical area comprising the municipality of Arnad (Autonomous Region of Valle d'Aosta).

Pigs intended for the production of 'Valle d'Aosta Lard d'Arnad' must have been born, reared, slaughtered and cut within the following regions: Valle d'Aosta, Piedmont, Lombardy, Emilia-Romagna, Veneto.

6. **Link with the geographical area**

Summary of the link

The features of the PDO product depend on environmental conditions and natural and human factors. In particular, the properties of the raw material are dependent on the specific designated area.

In the area which is the source of the raw material, the development of livestock farming is linked to the widespread cultivation of cereal crops and to working methods in the highly specialised dairy sector which have encouraged pig farming locally.

The localised processing of Lard d'Arnad is based on artisan methods developed over time and deeply rooted in the traditions of the local people in the municipality of Arnad.

Lard d'Arnad owes its particular features to each phase of the production process. This starts with the pigs' diet, which excludes feed supplements in favour of natural feedingstuffs, and ends with a final product that has undergone processing, cutting and cleaning.

Electronic (URL) reference to publication of the product specification

https://www.masaf.gov.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/3339