



## Australia-European Union Free Trade Agreement

# What is 'phasing out'?

Phasing out is discontinuing the use of a term to describe a product over a period of time. Phasing out generally only applies to using terms that Australia has agreed to protect as geographical indications (GIs) in the Australia-European Union Free Trade Agreement (A-EU FTA).



During the phasing out period, a person can continue to use the protected term.

Australia has agreed to phase out use of 8 EU GIs, as set out below.



Australian Government

March 2026. More information on the Australia-European Union Free Trade Agreement is available at

[dfat.gov.au/aeufta](https://dfat.gov.au/aeufta)

### **Australia has agreed to phase out or stop using the following terms 5 years after entry into force of the A-EU FTA**

- ▶ Fontina
- ▶ Munster
- ▶ Sherry vinegar
- ▶ Slavonski
- ▶ Szegedi
- ▶ Romano (retail)

### **Australia has agreed to phase out or stop using the following terms**

- ▶ Ouzo – after 7 years
- ▶ Tsipouro – after 7 years
- ▶ Prosecco for export – after 10 years

### **Qualifying for phasing out**

A person qualifies to continue using a term during the phasing out period, if they are making commercial use of the term in good faith in Australia as at the date of entry into force of the A-EU FTA.

During the phasing out period, the ability to continue to use a phased-out term will pass with a business when it is sold or passed to a successor.

There are no requirements to prove use of the term although, if challenged, a person would need to possess evidence of commercial use of the term as at the date of entry into force of the A-EU FTA.

### **Labelling rules**

A person using a term after the A-EU FTA enters into force would need to include on the label a legible and visible indication of the geographical origin of the good concerned.

Compliance with the Australian Country of Origin Food Labelling Standard would normally satisfy this requirement.

### **Stock in trade**

Once the phasing out period is over, a person who has legally labelled a good using a protected name before the name is fully protected, may market the good after the date of protection:

- ▶ at the wholesale level: for a further 5 years
- ▶ at the retail level: until stocks are exhausted.