

**Republic of Moldova**  
**Protection of Country names**

Legal basis:

The Law No. 38-XVI of February 29, 2008 on the Protection of Trademarks, Regulation on conditions of granting a permission of utilization of the official or historical denominations of the State in the marks on products and/or services, as well as in the industrial design (Decree of the Government of the Republic of Moldova No. 1425 of December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2003).

Applicable procedures:

The permission to use the name of the state is submitted at the State Agency on Intellectual Property of the Republic of Moldova (AGEPI) before the issuance of the certificate of registration of the trademark and renewal of the registration certificate's validity.

Scope of protection: country name forms part of the sign.

Pursuant to the Regulation on conditions of granting a permission of utilization of the official or historical denominations of the State in the marks on products and/or services, as well as in the industrial design (Decree of the Government of the Republic of Moldova No. 1425 of 02.12.2003) the official or historical name of the state is the Republic of Moldova, Moldova, country Moldova and their translations, used separately or in combination with other verbal or figurative elements.

For issuing the permission to use the official or historical name of the state in the mark, an application request is submitted and examined by a Committee appointed by the Government of the Republic of Moldova. The permission is issued for 10 years subject to payment of the state fee (approximately 300 Euros) with the right of extension upon applicant's request. The written request regarding the period extension is submitted in the last year of validity of the registered mark at AGEPI.

Abbreviations or derivatives of the official or historical name of the state, as well the presentation of the official or historical name of the state in a different form than the above mentioned shall be examined by the State Agency on Intellectual Property (AGEPI), and their use is allowed with no exclusive right, to physical and legal persons from the Republic of Moldova or foreign persons that hold functional businesses on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, registered according to the legislation in force.