

Regulations on the Registration and Administration of

Collective and Certification Marks

Rule 1. In order to regulate the registration and use administration of collective and certification marks, strengthen the protection of trademark rights and interests, uphold the public interests, and promote the development of characteristic industries, these Regulations are formulated according to the Trademark Law of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as “the Trademark Law”) and the Regulations for Implementing the Trademark Law of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as “the Implementing Regulations”).

Rule 2. The provisions of these Regulations regarding goods are applicable to services.

Rule 3. Where a collective mark is applied for registration, the subject qualification certification documents, the collective members' names and addresses, and use administration rules shall be attached to the application.

Where a group, association, or other organization applying for registration of a geographical indication as a collective mark, its members shall come from the region indicated by the geographical indication.

Rule 4. Where a certification mark is applied for registration, the subject qualification certification documents, use administration rules, evidence of the professional qualifications of its own or the entrusted organization's professional technical personnel, professional testing equipment, etc., to demonstrate its capability to supervise the specific quality of goods certified by the certification mark shall be attached to the application.

Rule 5. Where a geographical indication is applied for registration as a certification or collective mark, the approval documents from the county-level or higher people's government or the competent authority in the region indicated by the geographical indication shall be attached to the application.

Where a geographical indication is registered as a certification or collective mark, the application documents shall include the following information:

(1) The specific qualities, reputation, or other characteristics of the goods indicated by the geographical indication,

(2) The specific qualities, reputation, or other characteristics of the goods are

mainly determined by the natural or human factors in the region indicated by the geographical indication, and

(3) The scope of the region indicated by the geographical indication.

Where a geographical indication is applied for registration as a certification mark, the evidence of the professional qualifications or the entrusted organization's professional technical personnel, professional testing equipment, etc. shall be submitted.

Where a foreign individual or enterprise applies for registration of a geographical indication as a certification or collective mark, the applicant shall provide proof that the geographical indication is legally protected in the country of origin.

Rule 6. The use administration rules of collective or certification marks shall be formulated in accordance with the law, be binding on the registrants, collective members, and users, and include the following:

- (1) The purpose of using the collective or certification marks,
- (2) The quality of goods bearing the collective marks or the origin, raw materials, manufacturing methods, quality, or other specific qualities of goods certified by the certification marks,
- (3) The procedures for using the collective or certification marks,
- (4) The rights and obligations of using the collective or certification marks,
- (5) The liabilities that collective members of the collective marks or users of the certification marks shall bear where they violate the use administration rules, and
- (6) The inspection and supervision system by the registrants for goods bearing the collective or certification marks.

The use administration rules of the certification marks shall also include the conditions for using the certification marks.

The use administration rules of collective or certification marks shall be published. Where the registrants modify the use administration rules, they shall apply for change. After the China National Intellectual Property Administration's examination and approval, the change shall take effect as from the date of publication.

Rule 7. Where a geographical indication is registered as a certification or collective mark, it can be the name of the region indicated by the geographical indication or other signs that can indicate that a product originates from that region.

The region mentioned in the preceding paragraph does not need to be completely consistent with the current administrative division names or scope of that region.

Rule 8. Where multiple wine geographical indications are homophonic or identical in form but can be distinguished from each other and do not mislead the public, each geographical indication may be applied for registration as a certification or collective mark.

The use of someone else's registered wine or spirit geographical indication not originating from the indicated region, even if the true origin of the goods is indicated simultaneously, or if translated text is used, or if accompanied by expressions such as “kind”, “type”, “style”, or similar description, is subject to the provisions of Article 16 of the Trademark Law.

Rule 9. Where the names of administrative divisions at or above the county level or widely known geographical names are part of the applied-for collective or certification marks, the marks shall be distinctive and easy to identify. Where a mark contains a product name, the specified product shall be consistent or closely related to the product name in the mark, and the reputation of the product shall be closely associated with the geographical name. However, marks that harm the public interests shall not be registered.

Registration of a geographical indication as a certification or collective mark shall also be processed in accordance with the relevant provisions of these Regulations.

Rule 10. Before the approval of registration of a collective or certification mark, the applicant may apply to the China National Intellectual Property Administration for withdrawing the application for registration of the collective or certification mark.

Where the applicant withdraws the application for the registration of a collective or certification mark, the applicant's name and the trademark application number shall be specified. Upon examination in compliance with the regulations, the withdrawal may be approved. Where the applicant's name is inconsistent, the application has been approved of registration, or a decision has been made not to accept, to reject, or not to register, the withdrawal application shall not be approved.

Rule 11. The registrants of collective or certification marks shall carry out the following actions, fulfill the responsibilities of trademark administration, and ensure the quality of goods:

- (1) To permit collective members to use the collective marks in accordance with the use administration rules and permit others to use the certification marks,
- (2) To timely publish the information about the collective members and users and the use administration rules,
- (3) To check whether the using acts of collective members and users comply with the use administration rules,
- (4) To check whether the goods bearing the collective or certification marks comply with the quality requirements of the use administration rules, and
- (5) To timely revoke the use qualification of collective members or users that do not comply with the use administration rules and fulfil the procedures for changes and recordation.

Rule 12. To meet the need for administrating and using collective or certification marks, the registrants may collect reasonable fees from collective members and users. The amount of fees, payment methods, and payment deadlines shall be negotiated and published under the principles of fairness and reasonableness.

Rule 13. Where there are changes in the registrant's members of a collective mark, the registrant shall apply to the China National Intellectual Property Administration for changing the registered matters within three months and the China National Intellectual Property Administration shall publish it.

Where the registrant of a certification mark license others to use the mark, the registrant shall apply to the China National Intellectual Property Administration for recordation within three months after license and the China National Intellectual Property Administration shall publish it.

Rule 14. Where the assignment of a collective or certification mark is requested, the assignee shall have the corresponding eligibility and comply with the provisions of the Trademark Law, the Implementing Regulations, and these Regulations.

Where a collective or certification mark is transferred, the successor should have the corresponding eligibility and comply with the provisions of the Trademark Law, the Implementing Regulations, and these Regulations.

Rule 15. After a registrant's member of a collective mark has performed the procedures prescribed in the use administration rules, the collective member may use the collective mark. Collective members may not use the collective marks on goods that do not comply with the use administration rules.

The registrant of the collective mark may not license the collective mark to non-collective members.

Rule 16. Those who meet the conditions prescribed in the use administration rules of certification marks may use the certification marks after performing the procedures prescribed in the use administration rules. The registrants may not refuse to handle the procedures. Users may not use the certification marks on goods that do not comply with the use administration rules.

The registrants of the certification marks may not use the certification marks on the goods they provide.

Rule 17. Where the collective members or users use collective or certification marks, they shall ensure that the goods used comply with the quality requirements under the use administration rules.

Collective members and users may simultaneously use the collective or certification marks with their registered trademarks.

The geographical indication may not be used on goods produced outside the geographical regions indicated by the registered geographical indication for certification or collective marks.

Rule 18. The registrants of collective marks or certification marks shall promote and regulate the use of trademarks, enhance the trademark value, maintain the trademark reputation, and promote the development of the characteristic industries.

Rule 19. Registrants of collective or certification marks, collective members, and users shall strengthen brand building and fulfill the following responsibilities:

(1) To strengthen self-discipline, establish product traceability and monitoring mechanism, formulate risk control plans, and maintain the brand image and reputation of the marks,

(2) To encourage the adoption or formulation of advanced standards that meet market demand and establish a good brand image for the marks, and

(3) To explore the cultural connotations of the marks, formulate plans for the

development of the brand construction, carry out publicity and promotion, and enhance the value of brands on the basis of the local characteristic resources.

Rule 20. The local people's governments or industrial authorities shall reasonably allocate public resources according to the needs of local economic development, strengthen regional brand building through collective and certification marks, and promote the coordinated development of relevant market entities.

Local intellectual property administrative organs shall support regional brands in obtaining legal protection, guide the registration of collective or certification marks, strengthen use administration, implement strict protection, provide public services, and promote high-quality development.

Rule 21. The China National Intellectual Property Administration shall publish the registration information of collective and certification marks completely, accurately, and timely, and provide information search services to the public.

Rule 22. The following legitimate uses of the geographical names contained in collective or certification marks are not subject to the prohibition of the holders of trademark exclusive rights:

- (1) To use in enterprise names,
- (2) To use in ingredient lists, packaging, etc., indicating the origin of products and the raw materials,
- (3) To use on goods to indicate the place of production or regional origin,
- (4) To objectively indicate the places of origin in the commodity details, attributes, etc., on internet platforms or store displays, or
- (5) Other legitimate uses of the geographical names.

The legitimate use of the geographical names in collective or certification marks as mentioned in the preceding paragraph shall aim at describing facts and conform to common commercial practices and shall not violate other legal provisions.

Rule 23. Where others use the geographical names, product names, etc. contained in collective or certification marks in a factually descriptive manner in specialty foods, dishes, menus, window display, online commodity details display, etc. related to catering and do not mislead the public, it is legitimate use, and the holders of the registered trademark exclusive rights are not entitled

to prohibit it.

Rule 24. The legitimate use of a geographical indication registered as a collective mark refers to the legitimate use of the geographical names, product names, or generic names of goods contained in the geographical indication registered as a collective mark. However, the collective mark shall not be used arbitrarily.

Rule 25. Anyone who engages in the legitimate use described in Rules 22 to 24 of these Regulations shall not maliciously discredit the reputation of collective or certification marks, disrupt market competition order, or harm the legitimate rights and interests of the registrants.

Rule 26. Where a registrant fails to exercise its rights, and as a result, the collective or certification mark becomes the generic name of the approved goods or is not in use for three consecutive years without justifiable reasons, any person may apply for cancellation of the registered mark according to Article 49 of the Trademark Law.

Rule 27. Public officials, who neglect their duties, abuse their powers, engage in favoritism, engage in fraud, falsify documents, violate laws and disciplines, receive money or property from the parties, or seek improper benefits in the administration and protection of collective or certification marks, shall be disciplined in accordance with the law and regulations. Where it constitutes a crime, criminal liability shall be pursued in accordance with the law.

Rule 28. These Regulations shall come into effect as from February 1, 2024.

Rules on the Protection of Geographical Indication Products

Chapter 1. General Provisions

Rule 1. In order to effectively protect geographical indication products in China, regulate the use of geographical indication product names and exclusive signs, and ensure the quality and characteristics of geographical indication products, these Rules are formulated in accordance with relevant provisions of the Civil Code of the People's Republic of China, the Trademark Law of the People's Republic of China, the Product Quality Law of the People's Republic of China, the Standardization Law of the People's Republic of China, the Anti-Unfair Competition Law of the People's Republic of China, and other related laws.

Rule 2. Geographical indication products, as referred to in these Rules, are products originating from a specific region, and their quality, reputation, or other characteristics essentially depend on the natural and human factors of that region. Geographical indication products include:

- (1) The agricultural and aquacultural products from the local regions, and
- (2) The products with raw materials entirely from the local regions or partly from other regions but processed in specific methods in the local regions.

Rule 3. Geographical indication products shall possess authenticity, regional specialty, specificity, and relevance. Authenticity means that the names of the geographical indication products have been widely known to the public through long-term and continuous use. Regional specialty requires that all or most of the production processes of geographical indication products occur within a defined geographical region. Specificity means that the products have clear quality features, specific reputation, or other characteristics. Relevance means that the products' specificity is determined by specific natural and human factors of the particular geographical regions.

Rule 4. These Rules apply to the protection application, examination and recognition, cancellation, and change of geographical indication products, and the administration of exclusive signs.

Rule 5. The China National Intellectual Property Administration is responsible for the administration and protection of geographical indication products and exclusive signs nationwide, uniformly accepts and examines applications for the protection of geographical indication products, and legally recognizes geographical indication products.

Local intellectual property administrations are responsible for the administration and protection of geographical indication products and exclusive signs in their administrative regions.

Rule 6. The protection of geographical indication products shall follow the principles of voluntary application and open recognition. Applications for the protection of geographical indication products and the use of geographical indication product names and exclusive signs shall adhere to the principle of honesty and creditability.

Rule 7. The parties that are granted protection for geographical indication products shall regulate the use of the geographical indication product names and exclusive signs.

Geographical indication product names may be a combination of names with geographical indications and generic names reflecting the true attributes of the products or may be the established names with a long history of use.

Rule 8. Where any of the following scenarios arises, a geographical indication product shall not be recognized:

- (1) The product or product name violates the law, public order or good customs, or compromise the public interests,
- (2) The product name is only a generic name for the product,
- (3) The product name is a registered trademark or an unregistered well-known trademark of others and misleads the public,
- (4) The product name is identical with the name of a protected geographical indication product, causing public confusion about the product's geographical origin,
- (5) The product name is identical with the approved name for a plant variety or animal breeds, causing public confusion about the product's geographical origin, or
- (6) The product or the specific process violates safety, sanitation, or environmental requirements, posing potential harm to the environment, ecology, or resources.

Chapter 2. Application

Rule 9. An application for the protection of geographical indication products

shall be submitted by the people's government above county level in the proposed production region or by the government's designated representative social organization or protection applying institution (hereinafter referred to as "the applicant").

Rule 10. Where the product's production region falls into the jurisdiction of a county, the county-level people's government shall propose the production region. Where the production region spans multiple counties, the joint higher-level local people's government shall propose the production region. Where the production region spans different cities, the relevant provincial people's government shall propose the production region. Where the production region spans different provinces, the relevant provincial people's governments shall jointly propose the production region.

Rule 11. The materials for the application for the protection of geographical indication products shall be submitted to the provincial intellectual property administration.

The application materials shall include:

- (1) Suggestions from the relevant local people's government regarding the delineation of the production region of geographical indication products,
- (2) Documents from the relevant local people's government regarding the application and protection mechanism of geographical indication products,
- (3) Relevant materials for geographical indication products, including
 - (i) An application form for the protection of geographical indication products,
 - (ii) The requirements for the protection of geographical indication products, including the product name or class(es), the applicant's information, the production region, product description, an explanation of the relationship between the product's specific physical, chemical and sensory quality features, specific reputation, or other characteristics, the natural and human factors of the production region, and the information on the local intellectual property administration serving as the organization administering the use of the exclusive sign,
 - (iii) Product quality inspection reports,
 - (iv) Technical standards for the geographical indication products to be protected,
 - (v) Documentary records of the long-term continuous use of the product name,

etc.,

(vi) The product's popularity and an explanation of its production and sales, and

(vii) Information on the organization inspecting and testing the geographical indication product's characteristic quality, and

(4) Other explanatory or supporting materials.

Rule 12. A provincial intellectual property administration shall provide preliminary examination opinions within three months from the date of receiving the application. Where the examination is passed, the preliminary examination opinions and application materials shall be submitted to the China National Intellectual Property Administration. Where the examination is not passed, the applicant shall be notified in writing.

Chapter 3. Examination and Recognition

Rule 13. The China National Intellectual Property Administration shall conduct a formality examination of the received application. Where the examination is passed, the application shall be accepted, and the applicant shall be notified in writing. Where the examination is not passed, the applicant shall be notified in writing, and the applicant shall respond within four months from the date of receiving the written notification. Where there is no response within the deadline or the examination is not passed again, the application shall not be accepted, and the applicant shall be notified in writing.

Rule 14. The China National Intellectual Property Administration shall organize technical examination of the accepted application for the protection of geographical indication products. The technical examination shall be conducted by the Geographical Indication Product Expert Review Committee established by the China National Intellectual Property Administration.

The technical examination shall include meeting reviews and necessary on-site verification, and the applicant shall cooperate.

Where the technical examination is passed, the China National Intellectual Property Administration shall publish a preliminary recognition. Where the technical examination is not passed, the application shall be rejected, and the applicant shall be notified in writing.

Rule 15. Where a unit or individual opposes to the preliminarily recognized geographical indication products, the unit or individual shall file an opposition with the China National Intellectual Property Administration within two months

from the publication date of the preliminary recognition, submitting a written request, stating the grounds, and attaching relevant evidence.

If no opposition arises before the deadline expires, the China National Intellectual Property Administration shall publish the final recognition.

Where an opposition falls under any of the following circumstances, the China National Intellectual Property Administration shall raise rejection and notify the opponent in writing:

- (1) Submission is not conducted within the statutory time limit, or
- (2) The grounds for opposition are not specifically stated.

Rule 16. After the China National Intellectual Property Administration accepts an opposition request, it shall timely notify the opposed party and organize the two parties' negotiation. Where the negotiation fails, the China National Intellectual Property Administration shall make a decision after the Geographical Indication Product Expert Review Committee's review.

Where the opposition is tenable, the China National Intellectual Property Administration shall decide to refuse the recognition and notify the opponent and the opposed party in writing. Where the opposition is not tenable, the opposition request shall be rejected, the opponent and the opposed party shall be notified in writing, and the China National Intellectual Property Administration shall publish the recognition.

Chapter 4. Geographical Indication Product Protection System and Use of Exclusive Signs

Rule 17. The local people's governments where geographical indication products are located shall plan and implement the protection systems, including standard systems, testing systems, and quality assurance systems.

Rule 18. After obtaining protection for geographical indication products, based on factors such as the products' production region, class(es), and popularity, the applicant shall cooperatively establish national standards, local standards, and group standards for the geographical indication products. National standard samples shall be developed based on product class(es).

The standards shall not change the mandatory requirements such as recognized names, product types, production scope, and quality features set in the protection requirements.

Rule 19. The work of inspecting and testing the special quality of geographical indication products shall be undertaken by an inspection and testing organization that has the necessary qualifications. Where necessary, the China National Intellectual Property Administration may organize re-inspection by inspection and testing organizations.

Rule 20. The producers within the geographical indication products' production region who wish to use the exclusive sign shall apply to the local intellectual property administration and submit the following materials:

(1) Forms of application for using the geographical indication exclusive sign(s), and

(2) Geographical indication product feature quality inspection and testing report.

The local intellectual property administration shall verify the production region of the producers applying for the use of the exclusive signs. After the provincial intellectual property administration reviews the applications and the China National Intellectual Property Administration reviews and approves the registration, it shall be published, and the producer may use the geographical indication exclusive sign on its products.

The China National Intellectual Property Administration may also entrust qualified provincial intellectual property administration with the reviews. If the review is passed, the China National Intellectual Property Administration shall register and publish it.

Rule 21. Where geographical indication exclusive signs are used in public welfare activities such as seminars, exhibitions, and trade shows, request shall be filed with the provincial intellectual property administration. The following materials shall be submitted:

(a) The recordation form for using the geographical indication exclusive signs, and

(b) The design drawings of using the geographical indication exclusive signs.

The provincial intellectual property administrations shall review the above filed request. After the review is passed, it shall be reported to the China National Intellectual Property Administration for recordation. After the recordation is completed by the China National Intellectual Property Administration, the relevant entities may use the geographical indication exclusive signs in the

public welfare activities.

Rule 22. The legitimate users of geographical indication exclusive signs shall download the basic pattern vector graphic from the official website of the China National Intellectual Property Administration. The vector graphic of the geographical indication exclusive sign may be scaled proportionally, and the markings shall be clear and legible. The pattern, composition, font, graphic-to-text ratio, and color values of the exclusive sign shall not be altered.

Rule 23. The producers of geographical indication products shall organize production in accordance with the corresponding standards. Other units or individuals shall not arbitrarily use the protected geographical indication product names or exclusive signs.

After the protection of geographical indication products is granted, the applicants shall take measures to manage the use of geographical indication product names and exclusive signs, and the special quality features of the products.

Rule 24. The local intellectual property administrations are responsible for the routine supervision of the production scope, names, quality features, compliance with standards, and the use of exclusive signs of protected geographical indication products within their administrative regions.

The provincial intellectual property administrations shall periodically report the information about the supervision of geographical indication products and exclusive signs and the operation status of the protection system to the China National Intellectual Property Administration.

Rule 25. The use of geographical indication product names or exclusive signs under these Rules shall refer to the acts of using the geographical indication product names or exclusive signs on products, product packaging or containers, product transaction documents, or using the geographical indication product names or exclusive signs for advertising, exhibition, and other commercial activities to identify the origin of the products or the protected geographical indication products.

Chapter 5. Change and Cancellation

Rule 26. Where the protection requirements of geographical indication products need to be changed, a request for changes shall be submitted to the China National Intellectual Property Administration.

(1) For updates or improvements to protection requirements that do not change

the quality features and product forms, and do not involve changes to product names or production regions, the China National Intellectual Property Administration, after receiving the preliminary review opinions from the provincial intellectual property administrations, shall organize examination of the request for changes to protection requirements for geographical indication products. Where the review is passed, the China National Intellectual Property Administration shall publish a change announcement. Where the review is not passed, the applicant shall be notified in writing.

(2) For major changes to geographical indication product names, production regions, quality features, and product forms, the China National Intellectual Property Administration, after receiving the preliminary review opinions from provincial intellectual property administrations, shall organize a technical review by the Geographical Indication Product Expert Review Committee. Where the review is passed, the China National Intellectual Property Administration shall publish a preliminary change announcement. Where, within two months from the date of the preliminary change announcement, there is no opposition or there is opposition but it is not tenable, the China National Intellectual Property Administration shall publish the change announcement. Where the review is not passed, the applicant shall be notified in writing.

Rule 27. Anyone may request cancelling the protection of geographical indication products under any of the following circumstances, from the date of the China National Intellectual Property Administration's publication of the recognition announcement and shall provide reasons and attach relevant evidence:

- (1) The product name has evolved into a generic name,
- (2) The geographical indication product name has not been used in production and sales for three consecutive years,
- (3) The natural or human factors have changed, which results in the inability to guarantee the quality features of geographical indication products, and restoration is difficult,
- (4) The products or product names violate the law, go against public order and good customs, or compromise public interests,
- (5) The products or specific process violate the requirements for safety, health, and environmental, posing potential harm to the environment, ecology, or resources, or
- (6) Protection was obtained through deception or other unfair means.

Rule 28. Where a cancellation request fails to specifically state the reasons for cancellation, the China National Intellectual Property Administration shall not accept it and shall notify the requester in writing.

Rule 29. The China National Intellectual Property Administration shall examine the cancellation requests, make decisions, and notify the parties concerned in writing.

Where the China National Intellectual Property Administration decides to cancel the protection of geographical indication products, it shall publish a cancellation announcement.

Where the parties concerned are dissatisfied with the cancellation decisions, they may file lawsuits with the people's court within six months from the date of receiving the notification.

Chapter 6. Protection and Supervision

Rule 30. The following conducts are subject to relevant laws and regulations:

- (1) Using the protected geographical indication product names on identical or similar products outside the production region,
- (2) Using names on identical or similar products outside the production region that are similar to the protected geographical indication product names and mislead the public,
- (3) Using the protected geographical indication product names on products outside the production region that do not comply with the geographical indication product standards and administration rules, even if the true production region is indicated, or using translated names, or with expressions such as "type", "kind", "style", etc.,
- (4) Using the geographical indication exclusive sign on products that do not meet the standards of geographical indication products within the production region,
- (5) Counterfeiting geographical indication exclusive signs,
- (6) Using words or patterns on products that are similar to or may mislead consumers compared to the geographical indication exclusive sign,
- (7) Selling the aforementioned products,

(8) Forging geographical indication exclusive signs, or

(9) Other conducts against the relevant laws and regulations.

Rule 31. Where a producer who has been granted the right to use the geographical indication exclusive sign has had its business license canceled or revoked, or the relevant production license canceled or revoked, or has moved out of the geographical indication products' production region, or is no longer engaged in the production of the geographical indication products, or has not organized production in accordance with the corresponding standards and has not made rectification within the prescribed period, or has not used the exclusive sign on the protected geographical indication products within two years and has not made rectification within the prescribed period, the China National Intellectual Property Administration shall cancel the recordation to use the geographical indication exclusive sign, cease their use of the geographical indication exclusive sign, and publish an announcement.

Rule 32. The producers of geographical indication products that violate relevant provisions on product quality and standards are subject to administrative penalties in accordance with the Product Quality Law of the People's Republic of China, the Standardization Law of the People's Republic of China, and other relevant laws.

Rule 33. Where a protected geographical indication product name is used as the trade name in an enterprise name, misleading the public and constituting unfair competition, it shall be dealt with in accordance with the Anti-Unfair Competition Law of the People's Republic of China.

Rule 34. Public officials, who neglect their duties, abuse their powers, engage in favoritism, engage in fraud, violate laws and disciplines, receive money or property from the parties, or seek improper benefits in the administration and protection of geographical indication products, shall be disciplined in accordance with the law and regulations. Where it constitutes a crime, criminal liability shall be pursued in accordance with the law.

Chapter 7. Supplementary Provisions

Rule 35. The special matters such as the application, examination, use of exclusive signs, and supervision of foreign geographical indication products in the People's Republic of China shall be separately stipulated by the China National Intellectual Property Administration.

Rule 36. These Rules shall take effect as from February 1, 2024.