

PART I

GENERAL REMARKS

Article 1

In accordance with the terms described in Law 25/1970 dated 2 December and in the regulations approved in Decree 835/1972 dated 23 March, in Decree 3711/1974 dated 20 December and Royal Decree 728/1988 dated 8 July, the “Queixo Tetilla” Geographically Certified (‘Denominación de Orixe’) Label is to be accorded to all cheeses which comply with the characteristics described in the present Regulations regarding the way they are produced, elaborated and manufactured in fulfilment of all of the requirements as described herein and in all of the applicable Legislation.

Article 2

The “Queixo Tetilla” cheese is to be made from cow’s milk only produced in the geographical area as described in Article 5 of the present Regulations and produced in compliance with the general conditions as stated in any applicable Legislation as well as all of the specific requirements as stated herein.

Article 3

1. The guarantees afforded by the Geographically Certified Label are applicable both to the name “Queso Tetilla” as well as to its Galician translation.
2. It is hereby forbidden to apply names, brands, terms expressions or other signs similar in either their pronunciation or form to other cheeses any dairy products in such a way as to cause confusion, in breach of the set aims of the present Regulations, including expressions which make use of such terms as ‘type’, ‘style’, ‘flavour’, etc.

Article 4

The Regulatory Council for the Geographically Certified Label, the Galician Government Department for Agriculture, Livestock and Woodlands and the General Directorate for Food Policy attached to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food are the bodies responsible for upholding the “Queixo Tetilla” Geographically Certified Label, for applying the respective Regulations and for ensuring compliance with the latter as well as monitoring quality control for the cheeses concerned, each within its own respective scope of power.

PART II

MILK PRODUCTION

Article 5

The production area designated for the elaboration of “Queixo Tetilla” cheese covers the whole of the Autonomous Community of Galicia.

Article 6

1. Only cow’s milk produced by the Frisian, Brown Alpine or Galician Red breeds is eligible to be used for the production of “Queixo Tetilla” cheese.
2. The cattle must be fed according to traditional practices and it will be the Regulatory Council’s role to encourage the use of pasture lands, to which end it further reserves the right to determine additional regulations in order to ensure that the milk used for the production of “Queixo Tetilla” cheeses complies with a series of specific characteristics.
3. The Regulatory Council will encourage the adoption of techniques designed to improve the productivity of the cattle as well as the quality of the milk.
4. The premises used for the herd providing milk destined for the production of “Queixo Tetilla” cheese must comply with the conditions described in the applicable Legislation as well as the conditions described herein.

Article 7

1. The milk used for the production of “Queixo Tetilla” cheese must be natural, whole milk produced by healthy cattle and must fulfil the following conditions:

a) The milk must be free of colostrums, preservatives and any medicinal products which could negatively effect the elaboration, maturation, and conservation of the cheese.

b) The milk must comply with the characteristics specific to the breed of cows used to produce it as well as the season when it was produced, in line with the following minimum values:

Proteins	3.1%
Fat content	3.5%
Dry extract	8.4%

c) All of the hygiene conditions described in the applicable Legislation must be fulfilled.

d) The milk used for the production of the cheeses accorded this Geographically Certified Label must not exceed 18° Dornic at the beginning of the cheese-making process, with the only permitted additive being calcium chloride.

2. The milking process should be such as to guarantee the maximum hygiene of the milk.

3. Following milking, the milk must be kept in such a way as to prevent the development of microorganisms whilst also preventing any environmental contamination of the product.

4. The pick-up and transport of the milk must be carried out in such a way as to avoid mixing and/or storing the milk with milk from more than two other milking points. Transport should be carried out with the strictest hygiene, either in isothermal tankers or any other system designed to avoid adversely affecting the quality of the milk.

5. The Regulatory Council will oversee and monitor all milk delivery and transport provisions and reserves the right to issue additional regulations designed to ensure that these operations in no way adversely interfere with the quality of the product and in order to improve the hygiene conditions.

PART III

PRODUCTION AND MATURATION

Article 8

The production and maturation processes of the cheeses with the Geographically Certified Label must be carried out in appropriate facilities located within the milk-producing area as established in Art. 5 of the present Regulations.

Article 9

In order to guarantee the highest quality products which adhere to the traditional characteristics of the cheeses with the “Queixo Tetilla” Label, the techniques used for handling the milk and cheeses as well as the cheese-making, maturation and conservation processes must all comply with the applicable Legislation as well as traditional practices as described in the respective Articles below.

Article 10

1. Curdling

Only animal rennet is to be used for curdling, allowing for the use of the following starter culture bacteria: *STREPTOCOCCUS LACTIS*, *STREPTOCOCCUS CREMORIS*, or any other which does not alter the quality of the cheeses in question as approved by the Regulatory Council.

The curdling temperature must fall between 28-32°C, employing the quantity of rennet necessary in order for the curdling time to fall with a range of min. 20 minutes and max. 40 minutes.

2. Milling, Washing and Cooking of the Curd

In order for the cheese to comply with the characteristics described in Art. 12 of these Regulations, the curd must undergo the following processes:

- a) Milling: The granules of curd must be approximately the size of a chickpea.
- b) Washing: Natural water should be used to reduce the acidity level to 4-6° Dornic.
- c) Cooking: The curd should be washed in water with a temperature two degrees hotter than the temperature of the curd

3. Moulds: The shape and size of moulds must comply with the characteristics described in Art. 12.

4. Pressing: Pressing must be carried out using presses which ensure that the curd remains in the press no less than min. 3 hours with a pressure which can be varied in accordance with the pressing time.

5. Salting: Salting should be performed using a 17°-18° Baumé brine solution with an immersion period not exceeding max. 24 hours.

6. Maturation: In order for cheeses to be granted the Geographically Certified Label, they must undergo a maturation process of min. 7 days as from the end of the salting process.

During this period the cheeses must undergo all of the necessary turning and washing processes in order for them to acquire the characteristics specific to this cheese.

Article 11

The following are strictly forbidden during the making of cheeses with the Geographically Certified Label:

1. The use of caseinates, powdered milk, any kind of fat incl. butter as well as any additives not included in the applicable Legislations to the exclusion of all o any legally approved additives which are not specifically approved to this end by the Regulatory Council.

2. Any processes which would in any way alter the characteristics of the rind.

PART IV

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CHEESES

Article 12

1. By the end of the maturation period, the “Queixo Tetilla” cheese must have the following basic qualities:

- Shape: Conic, convex and conic.
- Weight: 0.5-1.5 Kg
- Size: The height must be greater than the radius of the base and smaller than the diameter.
Maximum:
15 cm high
15 cm diameter (base)
Minimum:
9 cm high
9 cm diameter (base)
- Rind: Visible, thin and elastic, min. 3 mm thick. Natural straw-yellow, mould-free colour.
- Texture: Soft and creamy. Smooth with few, regularly spaced holes. Yellowy, ivory-white colour.
- Aroma: Mild, slightly acid, reminiscent of the milk used.
- Flavour: Milky, buttery, mildly acid and slightly salty.
- Maturation: Min. 7 days (in normal conditions)
- Percentage of fat: Min. 45% of dry product
- Percentage of proteins: Min. 40% of dry product
- Percentage of dry product: 45-50%
- pH of the final product: 5.0-5.5 (upon dispatch)

2. The cheeses must comply with the characteristics described in Point 1 of this Article and with the sensorial qualities with which they are typically associated, especially regarding their colour, aroma and flavour. Any cheeses which the Regulatory Council deems not to comply with the characteristics as stated will not be liable for the “Queixo de Tetilla” Geographically Certified Label and will be disqualified in accordance with the terms described in Article 36.

PART V
THE REGISTERS

Article 13

The Regulatory Council will be responsible for holding the following registers:

- a) The Register of Dairy Farms
 - b) The Register of Cheese-making Industries and Cheese Dairies.
2. Requests for registration should be addressed to the Regulatory Council, accompanied by the relevant information, documents and certificates as required by the applicable Legislation by means of set forms or any other means as decided by the Regulatory Council.
3. The Regulatory Council will refuse, with an adjoining explanatory note, any applications which do not comply with the conditions described in the present Regulations or with any additional requisites agreed upon by the Council regarding additional technical conditions to be met by dairy farms, cheese dairies and maturation and ageing facilities.
4. Registration with these registers in no way exempts the interested parties from registering with any other general registers as required by Law, to which end they must provide proof thereof upon application to register with the Geographically Certified Label.
5. Those companies which carry out more than one phase of the process are required to register their farms and premises with the appropriate Registers.

Article 14

1. The Register of Dairy Farms will include all such farms set up in the designated production area and which fulfil the conditions described in the present Regulations and which intend to use all or part of their milk production for making “Queixo Tetilla” cheese.
2. The Register will include the following information: the name of the owner and/or tenant as applicable, the location, the herd card number and the number of reproductive cows as well as any other information deemed necessary for the classification, localisation and correct identification of the registered farm.
3. Registration will be exercised on a voluntary basis, as will requests to be removed from the Register. Once removal from the Register has been requested, a period of two years must elapse before reregistering, except in cases of a change of ownership of the farm in accordance with the terms of Art. 11.2 of the Royal Decree 728/1988.

Article 15

1. The Register of Processing Industries and Cheese Dairies will include those premises located within the designated area and whose registration application has been approved by the Regulatory Council for the making of cheeses deemed suitable for the Geographically Certified Label.

2. The Register will include the following information: the name of the owner and/or tenant as applicable, registered name, name of the town and the area where the premises are located, characteristics and capacity of the elaboration, machinery, processing system used and any other information deemed necessary to ensure the correct identification and cataloguing of the cheese dairies.

In order to facilitate the aforementioned, a reasonably scaled blueprint or sketch should also be included showing details of the premises and facilities.

3. Processing industries which also produce products other than the “Queixo Tetilla” cheese are required to provide notification thereof upon registration.

4. It is forbidden to use the registered premises for the production of other cheeses whose shape and characteristics could lead to confusion with the cheeses produced under the Geographically Certified Label.

5. Any cheeses intended to be given the Geographically Certified Label but which fail to comply with the requirements can be commercialised either as a basis for other products or for direct consumption, but with different labelling under the supervision of the Regulatory Council and without the Geographically Certified Label.

Article 16

1. In order for the entries in the Register to be considered valid, compliance must be forthcoming with all of the requirements described in the present Regulations with due notification made to the Regulatory Council of any modifications affecting the information supplied upon registration as and when any such modifications arise. As a result thereof, the Regulatory Council reserves the right to suspend or strike off the entry in question

2. The Regulatory Council will carry out routine inspections in order to ensure full compliance with the terms set out in the previous paragraph.

3. All entries in the Registers must be renewed as and when deemed appropriate by the Regulatory Council. In the case of the Register of Dairy Farms, the information therein must be renewed annually at a set date.

PART VI

RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

Article 17

1. Only those individuals or corporate persons whose farms are registered as applicable will be eligible to produce milk destined to be used for the production of Geographically Certified cheese.
2. Only individuals or corporate persons whose production premises are registered as such with the Geographically Certified Cheese Register will be eligible to produce cheeses with designed for maturation and sale under the Geographically Certified Label.
3. The “Queixo Tetilla” Geographically Certified Label can only be applied to cheeses made on premises registered to that effect with the Register of Cheese Dairies and which were produced in compliance with the terms described herein and which fulfil all of the characteristic sensorial conditions thereof.
4. The right to use the Geographically Certified Label in marketing, advertising, documents and labels is the exclusive right of those companies registered with the Regulatory Council.
5. All individuals and corporate persons who register with the Registers as appropriate thereby automatically undertake to abide by all of the terms described herein as well as to comply with any further agreements taken by the Xunta de Galicia, the General Directorate for Food Policy attached to the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Regulatory Council, each within its own respective sphere of influence, further undertaking to fulfil all and any obligations incumbent on them.
6. Any individuals or corporate persons whose farms and installations are duly registered as appropriate are required to maintain their fee payments up to date in order to exercise any of the privileges contained in the present Regulations and/or any of the services provided by the Regulatory Council.

Article 18

1. For registered cheese dairies equipped with maturation facilities, the Regulatory Council reserves the right to authorise the concurrent use of such facilities for the storage of cheeses other than Geographically Certified cheeses, if and when these cheeses were also produced on the same premises and in such a way as to avoid, in their shape or characteristics, any confusion with cheeses with the Geographically Certified Label. The Regulatory Council will issue a set of regulations designed to regulate such products properly in order to guarantee the quality and excellence of cheeses with the Geographically Certified Label.
2. Companies with cheese dairies and premises duly registered as such are entitled to store their production only in those areas designated to that effect upon registration.

Article 19

The brand name, symbols, logos, advertising slogans and any other marketing material used as applied to the Geographically Certified cheeses as described herein may not be used under any circumstances, including by the proprietary holders thereof, for the commercialisation of any other cheeses which do not have the “Queixo Tetilla” Geographically Certified Label.

Article 20

1. Geographically Certified cheeses destined for human consumption must have a numbered label or under-label as issued by the Regulatory Council to be applied on the premises where the cheeses are made or in the maturation facilities upon completion of this process prior to being dispatched, in compliance with the terms of the regulations governing the aforesaid as agreed upon by the Regulatory Council in such a way as to exclude any possible reuse of the former.

2. Each manufacturer’s own label as applied to Geographically Certified cheeses must display the words “Denominación de Orixe” (Geographically Certified) in a prominent way, together with all of the information required by the applicable Legislation, including a best before date within 60 days after the dispatching date.

3. Before the registered manufacturers’ labels can be put into circulation, whether it be for use with Geographically Certified cheeses or not, the former must first be approved by the Regulatory Council in compliance with the terms described herein. Approval will not be forthcoming for any labels which, for whatever reason, could lead to confusion on the part of the consumer. Furthermore, following notification and consultation with the affected party, previous approval may also be withdrawn upon changes in the status of the title-holding company.

4. Following approval by the Galician Government Department for Agriculture, Livestock and Woodlands, the Regulatory Council will adopt and register the logo as the symbol of the Geographically Certified Label. The Regulatory Council may also render it compulsory for premises registered for the production and maturation of the aforesaid to display a sign to that effect in a clearly visible place.

Article 21

Any transit of cheeses between registered companies must be accompanied by a transfer certificate for transport between cheese dairies as issued to that effect by the Regulatory Council in a way to be determined by the latter.

Article 22

1. The labelling of “Queixo Tetilla” Geographically Certified cheeses is to be performed exclusively on the premises of registered cheese dairies authorised to that effect by the Regulatory Council, otherwise thereby foregoing the right to the Geographically Certified Label.

2. Cheeses with the Geographically Certified Label can be transited and dispatched exclusively by registered cheese dairies and premises in packaging approved to that effect by the Regulatory Council to avoid adversely affecting the quality and reputation of the cheeses.

Article 23

1. Cheeses with the Geographically Certified Label can only be commercialised if and when the rind fulfils all of the outward and natural signs of its characteristic maturation. The cheese may be covered with a transparent, plastic coating as authorised, but which may in no way alter its natural appearance and colour.

Article 24

During each campaign, the Regulatory Council will be responsible for overseeing the quantities of cheese produced under the Geographically Certified Label as produced by every company registered on the Register of Cheese Dairies in order to verify the quantities of milk purchased as well as the stocks and purchases of cheeses by other registered companies.

Article 25

In addition to fulfilment of the conditions for cheeses exports, the export of cheeses with the Geographically Certified Label must also include the corresponding certification papers as issued by the Regulatory Council in accordance with the standard model approved by the General Directorate for Food Policy attached to the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, whereby any batches of “Queixo Tetilla” which lack the aforementioned documentation will be withheld by the customs authorities.

Article 26

1. In order to regulate production, elaboration and dispatching as well as the quantities of stocks and any other aspects deemed necessary in order to certify the quality of the cheeses with the Geographically Certified Label, those individuals and corporate persons who are title-holders of dairy farms, cheese dairies and maturation stations are bound to abide by the following conditions:

a) All title-holders of the registered farms are required to present a declaration of the milk production per registered herd for the previous month to the Regulatory Council in the first half of every month to include details of the use made of the milk and, in the case of sale thereof, the name of the buyer.

b) All of the registered cheese dairies must keep a daily log in accordance with a standard model as approved by the Regulatory Council to include entries for the quantities and origin of the milk used, the number and total weight of the cheeses produced and the maturation areas or maturation facilities used for cheeses with the Geographically Certified Label. Furthermore, the Regulatory Council should be presented with a summarized declaration of the aforementioned information for the previous month to be presented within the first half of each month as included in the logbook in accordance with a standard model as approved by the Regulatory Council.

c) All of the registered companies which mature cheeses are required to keep a daily log in accordance with a standard model as approved by the Regulatory Council, to include information regarding the quantity and origin of the cheeses to be matured, the number of fully matured cheeses and the number of cheeses put on the market for sale. They are further required to present a declaration including all of the aforementioned information from the log to the Regulatory Council within the first half of every month.

2. In compliance with Art. 46 and Art. 73 of Law 25/1970, the declarations referred to in Section 1 of the present Article are for statistical use only, to which end they may be used and published in numerical form only, with no mention being made of individual details thereof. Any violation of these Regulations by any person or persons attached to the Regulatory Council will be considered a serious dereliction of duty, notwithstanding any sanctions as applicable in accordance with the applicable Legislation on Statistics.

Article 27

1. Any milk or cheeses which, for whatever reason, are found to be defective or show signs of alterations or whose production fails to comply with any of the conditions described herein or in the applicable Legislation will be disqualified by the Regulatory Council, thus leading to the withdrawal of the Geographically Certified Label for the affected batch or the right thereto for any as yet not fully finished products.

2. The Regulatory Council reserves the right to disqualify cheeses at any stage of the production or commercialisation processes, whereby as from the onset of disqualification proceedings, such products will be duly isolated and labelled as such under the aegis of the Regulatory Council until such a time as they are released onto the market. Under no circumstances may any disqualified cheeses be sold under the Geographically Certified Label.

PART VII

THE REGULATORY COUNCIL

Article 28

1. The Regulatory Council is a body attached to the Galician Government Department for Agriculture, Livestock and Woodlands as a self-running body thereof with powers and functions as described herein and in accordance with the applicable Legislation.

2. Notwithstanding the terms described hereafter in Art. 29, its areas of influence are as follows:

- a) Covering all of the production, elaboration and maturation areas.
- b) Covering all of the cheeses with the Geographically Certified Label during all phases of production, elaboration, maturation, transit and commercialisation.
- c) Covering all of the persons who figure on the various Registers.

Article 29

The role of the Regulatory Council is to apply and guarantee compliance with the conditions described in the present Regulations, to which end the Council will exercise the functions ascribed to it in Art. 87 of Law 25/1970 and any further regulatory provisions, as well as any other functions as described herein.

Article 30

1. The Regulatory Council is made up of the following members:

- a) A President
- b) A Vice-president
- c) Four full members representing the interests of the farming sector as elected by the registered farmers who supply milk for making cheeses with the “Queixo Tetilla” Geographically Certified Label
- d) Four full members representing the interests of the cheese-making sector as elected by the cheese-makers registered as such with the Regulatory Council
- e) Two delegates of the Galician Government Administration, one of whom will be named by the Galician Government Department for Agriculture, Livestock and Woodlands and the other named by the Galician Government Department for Trade and Industry. Both delegates will sit at the meetings of the Council with the right to speak but without the right to vote.

2. The President and the Vice-president will be named by the Galician Government Department for Agriculture, Livestock and Woodlands following a proposal by the elected members in order to form the Regulatory Council, whereby the President will be elected from amongst the representatives of one of the affected sectors with the Vice-president elected from amongst the representatives of the remaining sector.

3. Each member of the Regulatory Council will also have a substitute to be elected following the same procedure as for the full representatives.

4. The post of full member must be renewed every four years, with the possibility of re-election.

5. Should any full member resign for legal reasons, the vacancy will be filled by the respective substitute, whose mandate will last up until such a time as the Regulatory Council is next renewed.

6. Full members are required to take up their posts of office no later than one month following their nomination.

7. Any full member who, either in a personal capacity or as the company to which they belong, is sanctioned for any serious breach of the terms and conditions described in the present Regulations, will be suspended from their post during the exercise thereof. Unjustified failure to attend two consecutive meetings or three alternate meetings in a one-year period, or the striking off of a member from the Geographically Certified Registers will also lead to the suspension of a member of the Council.

Article 31

1. Those members referred to in Subsections c) and d) of Section 1 of the previous Article must have ties to the sector they represent either directly or as executives of companies involved in the activities described herein. Notwithstanding, no individuals or corporate persons may have dual representation on the Council, albeit directly or indirectly via sister companies or partners thereof.

2. Members elected owing to their executive functions within a registered company will cease to exercise the said function if and when they cease to be executives thereof, regardless of the fact that they may continue to belong to the sector in question by transferring to another company, whereupon their place will be taken by their respective substitute according to the procedure described herein to that effect.

Article 32

The President will have the following functions:

a) To act as the representative of the Regulatory Council. This representation may be delegated to any other member of the Council as expressly stated as and when necessary.

b) To ensure compliance with the legal and regulatory requirements.

c) To administer the income and funds of the Regulatory Council and to order payments in accordance with the decisions taken to that effect by the Council.

d) To convene and preside the meetings of the Council, to set the agenda calling upon the Council to pronounce itself on any matters within its powers, and to implement any decisions taken.

e) To contract, suspend and renew the staff attached to the Regulatory Council following an agreement to that effect by the latter.

f) To organise and provide services.

g) To inform superior bodies of any incidences which may arise in the production and the market.

h) To notify the Galician Government Department for Agriculture, Livestock and Woodlands of any agreements reached by the Council for their fulfilment in accordance with the powers accorded to it by the present Regulations together with any other such agreements deemed to be sufficiently important to be worthy of notification to the aforementioned Government Department.

i) Any other functions as agreed by the Council or as ascribed to it by the Galician Government Department for Agriculture, Livestock and Woodlands.

2. The presidential mandate lasts for four years, with the possibility of re-election.

3. The Presidential mandate terminates when any of the following occur:

a) The term of office expires

b) Upon due notification after handing in his/her resignation

c) Upon a decision to that effect taken by the Galician Government Department for Agriculture, Livestock and Woodlands following the initiation of disciplinary procedures.

d) For any other reasons acting to that effect as described in the applicable Legislation.

4. In the event of cessation or demise, the Regulatory Council will propose a candidate for the office of new president within a one-month period.

5. The constitutive sessions of the Regulatory Council as well as the sessions convened for the election of the office of President will be presided over by a board chosen on the basis of age, made up of the Council's most senior member plus its two youngest members.

6. The Regulatory Council will be deemed to have been duly constituted when all of its members are present and when agreed as such by unanimity.

Article 33

1. The Council will meet as and when convened by the President either of his/her own accord or as requested by at least one half of its members. A meeting must be held at least once every trimester.

2. The meetings of the Regulatory Council must be convened with at least eight days prior notice, to be accompanied by the agenda for the meeting to which may be further added items other than those previously stated in the initial draft.

Should the need arise and if and as required by the urgency of the situation, the President reserves the right to convene the members of the Council by telegraphic means with at least 24 hours' prior notice.

In order to add an item not previously included by the President to the agenda, it must be requested by at least three vote-holding members of the Council with at least four days' prior notice.

3. Should a full member of the Council be unable to attend a meeting, notification should be sent thereof to the Regulatory Council.

4. Decisions adopted by the Regulatory Council must have a majority vote of the members present and in order for such decisions to be legally binding, at least half of the vote-holding members must be present. The President reserves the right to cast a decisive vote.

5. In order to resolve any questions arising regarding procedures or any other affairs as deemed necessary, the Standing Committee can be convened, made up of the President of the Council together with two members, one from the cheese-making sector and the other from the dairy farming sector, as named to that effect by the Regulatory Council meeting in a Plenary Session.

The session of the Council convened to approve the constitution of the aforementioned Standing Committee will also approve the role and functions thereof.

The Plenary Session of the Regulatory Council must be notified of all and any decisions taken by the Standing Committee in the first meeting convened thereafter.

Article 34

1. The Regulatory Council will be provided with all of the staff necessary to carry out all of the duties invested in it, as approved by the Regulatory Council and as stated in its budget.

2. The Regulatory Council will have a Secretary named by the Council as proposed by the President. The Secretary will be immediately answerable to the President and will be responsible for the following:

a) To prepare the workings of the Council and to attend to all of the preliminary procedures necessary for the implementation of the agreements taken by it

- b) To sit at the meetings of the Council with the right to speak but without the right to vote, to send out notice of the meetings, to take the minutes and to keep the books and other documents of the Council
 - c) To attend to any internal affairs of the Council, be they personal or administrative in nature
 - d) To instruct any cases of disciplinary proceedings to be ruled on by the Regulatory Council
 - e) Any other functions as required by the President related to the preparation and running of the Council's affairs.
3. The Regulatory Council will also dispose of the necessary services to attend to all and any technical matters.
4. The Council will be provided with of its own corps responsible for carrying out the quality control and monitoring inspections. These inspectors will be named by the Regulatory Council and will be empowered to that effect by the Galician Government Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Woodlands with powers over the following areas:
- a) Dairy farms located within the designated production area.
 - b) Cheese dairies and other premises located within the designated production, elaboration and maturation areas.
 - c) Milk and cheeses produced within the designated production, elaboration and maturation area.
5. The Regulatory Council reserves the right to contract personnel to carry out urgent business following the necessary approval of the corresponding budgetary endowment.
6. Existing Labour Laws will apply to all personnel attached to the Regulatory Council, be they permanent and temporary staff.

Article 35

1. The Regulatory Council will set up a Qualification Committee for the cheeses, made up of three experts plus one delegate acting on behalf of the President of the Regulatory Council, to be responsible for reporting on the quality of the cheeses which opt to register as Geographically Certified cheeses and destined for sale. The Committee also reserves the right to call upon any technical assistance deemed necessary.
2. Following an inspection of the reports issued thereby, the President of the Council will make any final decisions as necessary including the eventual temporary disqualification of any cheeses for a ten-day period.

If the affected party appeals against the resolution within the allotted period, the must be brought before the Plenary Session of the Regulatory Council to issue a final decision. If within this period no such request is forthcoming, then the decision initially issued by the President will be considered binding.

Resolutions taken by the Regulatory Council can be appealed against with the Galician Government Department for Agriculture, Livestock and Woodlands.

3. The Regulatory Council will be responsible for issuing the regulations covering the setting up and running of the Qualification Committee

Article 36

1. The workings of the Council will be financed by the following sources of income:

1.1 With the product of the tax levies as described in Art. 90 of Law 25/1970 as applied at the following rates

a) 1% of the value of the milk delivered to the cheese dairies to be used for the production of “Queixo Tetilla” cheese

b) 1% levied on the value of the affected saleable goods

c) A forfeit of 100 Pesetas for the issue of the certificates and invoice visas

d) A quantity equivalent to twice the cost of the labels or seals

The parties affected by each of the aforementioned levies are as follows:

For a) the title-holders of the registered farms

For b) the title-holders of the cheese dairies or maturation premises as registered which produce cheese with the Geographically Certified Label

For c) the title-holders of registered companies who request invoice visas or certificates

For d) the title-holders of companies requesting the items described.

1.2 Any grants, bequests or donations received.

1.3 Any money forthcoming as a result of compensation for damages to the Regulatory Council or the interests represented by it.

1.4 The assets which make up its corporate equity together with the products and sales thereof.

2. The tax rates described in the present Article are subject to modification by the Galician Government Department for Agriculture, Livestock and Woodlands upon request by the Regulatory Council in order to satisfy the budgetary requirements of the latter as and when necessary.

3. The Regulatory Council will be responsible for administering the income and expenses as described in the corresponding budgets.

4. The Galician Government Department for Agriculture, Livestock and Woodlands will be responsible for approving the Council's budgets and for auditing the accounts in accordance with the terms described to that effect by the former and in accordance with the powers and functions accorded it in such affairs by the applicable Legislation.

Article 37

Any general, non-specific decisions taken by the Regulatory Council and which do not affect a group persons or companies involved with the production and/or elaboration of "Queixo Tetilla" cheeses must be made public by means of circulars to be posted in the offices of the Council in such a way and in such a place as deemed most accessible for the benefit of the interested parties.

Any agreements and resolutions adopted by the Regulatory Council can be appealed against with the Galician Government Department for Agriculture, Livestock and Woodlands with a one-month period as from the date of notification thereof.

PART VIII

INFRINGEMENTS, SANCTIONS AND PROCEDURES

Article 38

Any actions involving disciplinary proceedings as and when deemed necessary will be taken in accordance with the terms described in the present Regulations and in line with Law 25/1970 dated 2 December entitled “The Statutes of Vines, Wines and Spirits”, Decree 835/1972 dated 23 March which serves to approve the Regulations thereof, Royal Decree 1945/1983 dated 22 June which regulates infringements and sanctions regarding consumer rights and agricultural produce, the applicable Law 30/1992 dated 26 November regarding the Legal System concerning Public Administrations and the General Administrative Procedure as well as any other general rules and regulations applicable at the time of the sanction.

Notwithstanding, all of the principles and guarantees described in the Penal Code will be upheld at all times.

In order for the previous rule to be applied, this must be done in accordance with the terms described in the Royal Decree 4189/1982 dated 29 December, which transfers the functions and services regarding Geographically Certified Labels, viticulture and Oenology administered by the State Administration to the Autonomous Community of Galicia.

Article 39

1. The infringements described in the present Regulations and as accorded by the Regulatory Council will be sanctioned by means of warnings, fines, seizure of the goods, a temporary ban on the use of the Geographically Certified Label and being struck off the corresponding Register or Registers as described in the following articles, notwithstanding any other sanctions which may be taken for breaches of the existing general legislation which may also be applied as and when appropriate. Should various different regulations be found to apply simultaneously, then the procedures described in the penal principles will be applied.

2. The rates of the fines to be applied will be determined in accordance with the terms described in Art. 120 of the Decree 835/1972.

Article 40

The sanctions to be applied for infringements committed by person or persons registered with the Geographically Certified Label in accordance with the terms described in Art. 129.2 of the Decree 835/1972 are as follows:

A) Administrative Faults

Incidences of administrative faults will be sanctioned with a warning or a fine amounting to 1-10% of the value of the goods affected. Such faults generally include mistakes or omissions in the declarations, entries, logbooks, transit certificates and other documents which serve to guarantee the quality and origin of the goods, especially the following:

1. Falsifying or omitting information and warrants as and when required for registration with the various Registers.
2. Failure to notify the Regulatory Council of any changes to the information supplied upon registration as and when such changes occur.
3. Falsifying or omitting information regarding the production and production movements.
4. Any other breaches of the terms of the Regulations or of the agreements of the Regulatory Council regarding the matters dealt with in Section A) hereof.

B) Breaches of the terms described in the Regulations regarding the production, elaboration, maturation and characteristics of the certified cheeses

Such infringements will be sanctioned with fines ranging from 2-20% of the value of the affected goods, with the possibility of also issuing a confiscation order.

These infringements include the following:

1. Failure to comply with the terms of the applicable regulations regarding milk production, conservation and transport.
2. The use of milk for Geographically Certified cheeses which does not comply with the conditions described in the present Regulations.
3. Failure to comply with the terms described in the regulations regarding the elaboration and maturation of the aforementioned cheeses.
4. The use of products not authorised as such by the present Regulations during the production of the Geographically Certified cheeses.
5. Any other breaches of the terms of the Regulations or of the agreements of the Regulatory Council regarding the matters dealt with in Section B) hereof.

C) Infringements due to the improper use of the Geographically Certified Label or other acts which could cause tort or bring it into disrepute

Such infringements will be sanctioned with fines ranging from twenty thousand Pesetas to twice the value of the affected goods when in excess thereof as well as the seizure of the goods in question.

These infringements include the following:

1. The use of registered names, commercial names, brands, symbols or logos which refer to the Geographically Certified Label as well as the other names associated with it for the commercialisation of cheeses which are not covered by the label.
2. The use of the Geographically Certified Label for cheeses not made, matured or stored in accordance with the terms of the applicable legislation and with the terms of the present Regulations or for cheeses which fail to comply with the sensorial conditions and characteristics required.
3. The improper use of commercial names, brands or labels which have not been approved to that effect by the Regulatory Council for such cases as those referred to in Section C) hereof.
4. The improper possession, trading or use of Geographically Protected Label documents, labels, stamps, etc. as well as the falsification thereof.
5. The dispatching of cheese which do not comply with the quality control parameters described in their adjoining commercial specifications.
6. The dispatching, circulation and commercialisation of Geographically Certified cheeses in packaging not approved to that effect by the Regulatory Council.
7. The dispatching, circulation and commercialisation of Geographically Certified cheeses without the corresponding numbered labels or which fail to comply with the control mechanisms as agreed by the Regulatory Council.
8. Elaboration, maturation or labelling conducted on premises not registered and authorised to that effect by the Regulatory Council.
9. Failure to pay the tax levies as described in the present Regulations on the part of the parties involved as applicable.
10. In general, any action found to be in breach of the terms described in the present Regulations and the agreements of the Regulatory Council which in any way cause a tort to the Geographically Certified Label or bring it into disrepute or which involve an improper use thereof.

Article 41

1. Infringements committed by persons not registered with the Regulatory Council:

a) Improper use of the Geographically Certified Label

b) The use of commercial names, brands, expressions, logos or other signs phonetically or graphically similar to those associated with the Geographically Certified Label or and the characteristic logos and identifying signs thereof, in such a way as to create confusion regarding the origin of the goods in question, notwithstanding any rights acquired for the use thereof as duly recognised by the competent bodies.

c) The use of geographical names covered by the Geographically Certified Label on labels or advertising, including the use of terms such as 'type', etc.

d) Any actions which causes a tort to the Geographically Certified Label or bring it into disrepute or which might lead to confusion on the part of the consumers.

2. Such infringements will be sanctioned with fines ranging from twenty thousand Pesetas up to twice the value of the goods affected when in excess thereof, and including the seizure of the goods in question.

Article 42

The following procedures will be followed when applying the sanctions as described in the previous Articles:

1. Sanctions will be applied at their minimum level when the following conditions apply:

a) Simple irregularities concerning a failure to comply with the Regulations without any direct adverse impact on the consumers and which do not profit the offending party in any way.

b) When the faults are corrected within the allotted period established to that effect by the Regulatory Council.

2. Sanctions will be applied at their mid-level when the following conditions apply:

a) Following repeated failure to provide the information requested, failure to cooperate and failure to grant access to the documentation required by the present Regulations or agreements taken by the Regulatory Council

b) When the infringement in question has a direct adverse impact on the consumers or directly serves to profit the offending party

c) Failure to correct the faults within the allotted period established to that effect by the Regulatory Council.

d) When the infringement is the result of negligence with a failure to comply with the code of practice as specifically agreed to that effect by the Regulatory Council.

e) For any cases when the application of the minimum and maximum levels for sanctions are deemed unsuitable.

3. Sanctions will be applied at their maximum level when the following conditions apply:

a) When there is clear evidence of intent to deceive

b) When the infringement causes serious torts to the Geographically Certified Label, the persons registered with it and the consumers

4. Temporary withdrawal of the right to use the Geographically Certified Label and being struck off from the corresponding Registers may be applied in cases of the infringements described in Point 5 of Section B of Article 40 and in Points 1, 2, 4, 7, 8 and 9 of Section C of article 40.

Temporary withdrawal of the right to use the Geographically Certified Label, not exceeding three months in length, will also imply the loss of the right to receive certificates, seals, labels and other documentation issued by the Regulatory Council.

This will also lead to the offending party being struck off the Council's Registers, thereby foregoing and rights afforded by the Geographically Certified Label.

Article 43

In cases of repeated breaches or when the goods are destined for the export market, the fines applied will be 50% greater than the maximum levels provided for in the present Regulations.

In the case repeated tortfeasers, the fines can be tripled regarding the maximum levels provided for in the present Regulations.

Article 44

1. The Regulatory Council will have the final decision regarding any disciplinary proceedings undertaken if and when the offending party is registered with one of the Council's Registers and when the sanction is not in excess of fifty thousand Pesetas. For all other cases, the Regulatory Council will duly notify the Galician Government Department for Agriculture, Livestock and Woodlands who will handle the case.

2. In the case of sanctions initiated by the Regulatory Council, the Secretary of the Council will instruct the case with the lawyer of the Regulatory Council, or a representative thereof, acting as Secretary.

3. All final decisions regarding the final seizure of products and the fate thereof will be taken by those parties invested with the corresponding powers to rule on the said disciplinary proceedings.

Article 45

In cases where the infringement involves the improper use of the Geographically Certified Label, the Regulatory Council, notwithstanding any administrative actions and sanctions to be taken as appropriate, reserves the right to bring the case before the Courts in order to exercise the civil and penal actions recognised in the Legislation on Industrial Property.