



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

THIRTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Bill 113

**An Act to amend the Act respecting
reserved designations**

Introduction

**Introduced by
Mr. Yvon Vallières
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food**

**Québec Official Publisher
2005**

EXPLANATORY NOTES

This bill provides that, of the three types of designations that may be attributed to agricultural or food products, one is to be an attestation of the link of a product to the terroir. The bill also states explicitly that another type of designation attesting to the specificity of agricultural or food products is to include farm products and artisan products.

The bill further provides that an application for the accreditation of a certification body for a designation attesting to a link to the terroir or to specificity may be submitted on the initiative of a single person.

The bill requires that a certification body submit a proposed designation and the related specification manual to public consultation before applying for accreditation for the designation.

Lastly, it grants the Minister additional regulatory powers, notably as regards the consultation of the public on designations.

Bill 113

AN ACT TO AMEND THE ACT RESPECTING RESERVED DESIGNATIONS

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Section 1 of the Act respecting reserved designations (R.S.Q., chapter A-20.02) is amended by replacing “region of origin or specificity” in the third line of the first paragraph by “their link to the terroir or their specificity, including their specificity as farm products or artisan products”.

2. Section 10 of the Act is amended

(1) by inserting the following paragraph after paragraph 1:

“(1.1) to determine the words, initialisms or symbols that identify the attestation involved in the recognition of a designation and to authorize their use with the designation;”;

(2) by adding the following paragraphs at the end:

“(5) to determine, in the case of a designation attributed as an attestation of a link to the terroir or as an attestation of specificity, the other criteria and requirements to be met and the documents and information to be submitted when an application for recognition is made on the initiative of a single person;

“(6) to determine the content and means of dissemination of the notice referred to in section 12.1, and the other conditions related to its publication.”

3. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 12:

“**12.1.** Before applying for accreditation for a designation, a certification body shall publish a notice in accordance with the regulation of the Minister in order to make interested persons aware of the proposed designation and the related specification manual. The notice is to contain the relevant information on where to find the specification manual and how to submit comments in writing.

The body shall send the Minister a report on the results of the consultation indicating, among other things, any changes made to the specification manual in light of the comments received.”

4. Section 13 of the Act is amended by adding the following paragraph at the end:

“The body may apply for accreditation for a designation as an attestation of a link to the terroir or as an attestation of specificity on the initiative of a single one of its members. In such a case, the report referred to in the second paragraph of section 12.1 must be submitted with a statement by the body to the effect that no other person has indicated an intention to use the designation.”

5. This Act comes into force on (*insert the date of assent to this Act*).