

**General Guidelines regarding the usage of the**  
**Protected Designation of Origin (PDO)**  
**Χαλλούμι/Halloumi/Hellim**

Please note the following:

- The following guidelines are indicative and enhancing yet non-exhaustive.
- The use of the Protected of Designations of Origin (PDO) Χαλλούμι/Halloumi/Hellim is governed by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/591 of 12 April 2021 providing for the name ('Χαλλούμι' (Halloumi)/'Hellim' (PDO))<sup>1</sup> in the register of Protected Designations of Origin (PDO) and Protected Geographical Indications (PGI) and by national decrees issued by the Minister of Energy, Commerce and Industry (Minister) of the Republic of Cyprus in accordance with article 17B of the Standardization, Accreditation and Technical Information Law (N.156(I)/2002). In cases of deviation between the general guidelines and either Implementing Regulation (EU) no. 2021/591 and/or the Ministerial decrees, the provisions of the latter should be applied.
- It should be noted that any reference to Halloumi should include the reference to Χαλλούμι and Hellim. For further information, please, contact the Department of Agriculture of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment [qualityproducts@da.moa.gov.cy](mailto:qualityproducts@da.moa.gov.cy).

**In general**

The name Halloumi and the Union symbol (PDO logo) are to be placed, exclusively, on fresh and mature Halloumi products that have been produced in establishments that are:

- a) established in Cyprus and duly approved by the Services of the Government of Cyprus
- b) registered operators in the control and certification system for the verification of compliance with the specifications of Χαλλούμι/Halloumi/Hellim (PDO) and
- c) possess a valid certificate by the delegated Control Body.

Furthermore, the foodstuff that is final product of the production process and bears the Union symbol for "PDO" must: (a) be produced in accordance with the specifications of Χαλλούμι/Halloumi/Hellim as set forth in Section E of the Specifications Document for both types of Halloumi, fresh and mature, and (b) meet the provisions of Section B titled "Description of the Agricultural product or foodstuff" of the Specifications Document regarding both fresh and mature halloumi as well as the minimum ratio requirements of goat's and sheep's milk as defined in the relevant Ministerial decree, published during the transitional period that has been approved from the Cypriot Government according to article 15(4) of regulation (EU) 1151/2012.

Access to the register of the beneficiaries of the Χαλλούμι/Halloumi/Hellim PDO (certified production establishments) is available to the public via the Department of Agriculture website <http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/da/da.nsf/>.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 125, 13.04. 2021, p.42

### **A) Packed slices of Halloumi, pieces of Halloumi and shredded Halloumi**

The name Halloumi and the PDO Union Symbol may appear on the package of a foodstuff of sliced Halloumi, Halloumi cut in pieces and shredded Halloumi as long as these processes took place upon the conclusion of the production process, as this process is described in Section E of the Specifications Document regarding both fresh and mature Halloumi.

It should be noted that the Halloumi product from which the Halloumi slices, Halloumi pieces or shredded Halloumi originated must also meet the requirements of Section B titled “Description of the Agricultural product or foodstuff”, regarding production specifications for both fresh and mature Halloumi, thereby exhibiting the main characteristics of fresh and mature Halloumi.

### **B) Products to which basil, chili or other spices are added**

The use of the name “Halloumi” and associated Union PDO symbol on a foodstuff that contains basil, chili and/or other spices is permitted under the following conditions:

- i. Adherence to the production specifications outlined in Section E of the Specifications Document for both types of Halloumi, fresh and mature.
- ii. The basil, chili, or other spices are sprinkled on the product upon the conclusion of the production process.

**The addition of chili, basil and/or other spices in the curd during the Halloumi production process is not permitted (non-compliant with production specifications).**

**Furthermore, without prejudice to the addition of basil, chili, or other spices the foodstuff referred to as Χαλλούμι/Halloumi/Hellim PDO must, in all circumstances, contain spearmint.**

As a result, where basil, chili or other spices are sprinkled to Χαλλούμι/Halloumi/Hellim PDO, the final product is to be referred to as:

***“Χαλλούμι ΠΟΠ επικαλυμμένο με chili ή βασιλικό / Halloumi PDO coated with chili or basil/  
Hellim PDO coated with chili or basil”***

In such cases, the PDO Union Symbol or the abbreviation PDO must be applied on the packaging in such a way that the information garnered by the consumer is that the product of Protected Designation of Origin is “Halloumi” and not the modified product i.e., “Halloumi chili”.

### **C) Processed foodstuffs containing Halloumi**

In regards to processed foodstuffs containing Χαλλούμι/Halloumi/Hellim PDO the relevant EU Guidelines should be followed (Announcement C341, dated 16.10.2010).

Directives are differentiated on the basis of the composition of the processed foodstuff and the percentage content of halloumi within the foodstuff.

Consequently, before the preparation and printing of a label of such processed foodstuffs, it is advisable to contact the Department of Agriculture.

 In any case, when the designation Χαλλούμι/Halloumi/Hellim is used on the labelling of a product, the ingredient Χαλλούμι/Halloumi/Hellim must have been produced by an establishment that is located in the Republic of Cyprus and possesses a valid Certificate of Compliance (see: <http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/da/da.nsf/>).

Examples of such foodstuffs are given below:

- 1) A processed foodstuff which does not contain any other cheeses besides Χαλλούμι/Halloumi/Hellim PDO and consists of Halloumi coated with e.g. breadcrumbs, flour, spices etc. and is a type of “stick” or “nugget” or “burger” or “fries” or “finger” or else may be named “Sticks with Halloumi, nuggets with Halloumi, burgers with Halloumi, fries with Halloumi, fingers with Halloumi”, accordingly. In addition to the above, under the list of ingredients on the packaging of the product the abbreviation PDO should appear next to the word Halloumi.

Alternatively, the name sticks made with Halloumi PDO, nuggets made with Halloumi PDO, burger made with Halloumi PDO, fries made with Halloumi PDO, fingers made with Halloumi PDO may be used.

- 2) A processed pie type foodstuff that is made exclusively with Halloumi cheese may be named in accordance with point 1 (above).
- 3) For processed foodstuffs or shredded foodstuffs that also contain other types of cheeses (e.g. anari, edam etc.) the name Halloumi may only be used in the list of ingredients on the packaging of the product and NOT at or next to the trade name of the related foodstuff. The abbreviation PDO should appear next to the word “Halloumi” on the list of ingredients.
- 4) Any foodstuff that consists only of Halloumi slices or Halloumi pieces, without any other processing, may not be named after a similar product i.e., halloumi fries. The name should follow the pattern set-out in point 1 (above) i.e., “Halloumi PDO in pieces or Halloumi PDO for fries”.