

## DOCUMENTARY CHECKS IN WAREHOUSES

### 1. Inspections by Wine Standards Board

WSB Inspectors carry out checks during visits to premises where wine is held, in order to examine documentation required for the shipment of wine from Member States and Third Countries. **This documentation is described in paragraph 3.**

WSB Inspectors are entitled under the CAP Wine Regulations to see this compulsory documentation to check that it is genuine, correctly completed and approved (where stipulated) by an issuing authority in the country of production. In addition, information may be compared to stocks of wine held at the premises.

If details recorded on documentation are incomplete or inaccurate or if there are faults with the labelling of the wine, the trader or owner of the premises will be advised and instructed to carry out immediate or future corrective action.

**NB - Where stocks of a faulty wine have inadvertently been released (prior to discovery of the fault), instructions for corrective action may entail slip labelling at several different locations or consolidation of stocks.**

### 2. Bottler / Bond / Warehouse / Trade checks

It is in the interests of traders (wholesalers / importers / bottlers etc) to plan their own regular programme of checks on accompanying documentation and wine shipments, to discover any infringements and avoid any unexpected subsequent movement controls on the wine by the WSB and other authorities that may also involve additional labelling costs or major recalls.

Bonded warehouses are also well placed to carry out these checks on behalf of their own stocks and trade customers, if they wish to offer this service. (Checks may also be a condition of the Bond Approval by HM C&E).

### 3. VII & Administrative Accompanying Document (AAD) documents

Under wine sector regulations, there are 2 principal documents for the shipment of wines into the UK.

- a. The certificate of origin and analysis, known as the **VII**, is compulsory for most imported Third Country wines (the main exception is for low volume exporting countries including China and India).
- b. The **AAD** is used for movement of EC wines under bond, often from another country. For internal UK movement the W8 (required by HM Customs and Excise) is the equivalent form.

#### 3.1 VI1

The original document and a copy must accompany the wine and comply with the model set out in the Regulation and signed by the issuing authority in the originating Third Country (or an approved producer in Australia or USA). The European Commission publishes a list of authorities and producers: see C17/2004, 22 January 2004 (website reference [http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2004/c\\_017/c\\_01720040122en00010047.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2004/c_017/c_01720040122en00010047.pdf)). Information should be accurate, especially analytical data (Box 11) and not contravene limits set out in European Commission regulations.



## 5 Illustrations:

### a) Alcoholic strength discrepancy

If wine label states 11.5% (labelled strength should be to nearest 0.5%) this should usually be reflected by a VII or AAD stating a minimum 11% and maximum 12%.

*e.g. label states 12%, VII or AAD gives actual alcohol at 11.2%.*

***This is outside the standard permitted tolerance\* and should be notified to the WSB. Independent analysis may be required in order to demonstrate actual alcoholic strength, which may allow the wine to be legally marketed. An analytical tolerance of 0.1% vol is allowed.***

quality wines more than 3 years old and sparkling wine are permitted a labelling tolerance of 0.8%

### b) Alcohol statement

**Wines from Third Countries should in general not exceed 15% vol total alcohol**

(Note - Liqueur or 'fortified' Wines are treated separately).

**NB - If a figure greater than 15% (total or actual alcohol) is shown on the VII form or label, the WSB should be notified. Minimum actual alcohol is usually 9% vol.**

*e.g. a VII shows total alcohol of 15.3% while the label states 15%.*

***Although the label is showing alcohol to the nearest 0.5%, as required, the total alcohol figure indicates that the wine has been illegally imported and must not be marketed.***

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