

3. Enforcement of EU Wine Regulations

3.1 Regulations on the production and marketing of wine in the EU are enforced in the UK under the Common Agricultural Policy (Wine) Regulations. These Regulations list the EC wine regulations that are to be enforced by the UK courts and prescribe penalties for offences.

3.2 The following bodies are designated by the Common Agricultural Policy (Wine) Regulations as responsible for ensuring compliance with EU wine law:

- **Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra):** designated the liaison body responsible for contact with the European Commission and for co-ordinating activities of control authorities in the UK. Defra is an enforcement authority administering the wine regulations in England and Northern Ireland. Enforcement authorities in Scotland include the Scottish Ministers and in Wales, the National Assembly. Defra also co-ordinates the activities of the other bodies involved in the enforcement of the wine regulations.
- **Wine Standards Board (WSB):** is the control authority that enforces the wine regulations in the wholesale sector of the wine trade, including vineyards and wineries. The WSB also supervises the EU system of documentation and records for wine. Contact details for WSB inspectors may be found on our website <http://www.wsb.org.uk/ourinspectors.htm>
- **Local Authorities:** local authority officers enforce the wine regulations at retail level and additionally are responsible for Weights and Measures legislation and vineyard off-licences. Responsible for new Personal and Premises Licences from February 2005;
- **HM Revenue and Customs:** is responsible for ensuring that wine is accompanied by the necessary documentation at the point of entry to the UK for third country wine, or at the consignees' tax warehouse for EU wine. Also controls all wine-making activities when these are carried out in tax warehouses. Details are issued in HMRC Notices

3.3 Authorised officers of these bodies have extensive enforcement powers for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the wine regulations. These include powers of entry and inspection and control of movement of wine, as well as authority to take samples of wine. As some work areas overlap, wine producers may find that they have contact with authorised officers of more than one organisation.