

WINE SAFETY



Australian Government
Australian Trade Commission



Setting world standards in food safety

Australia has an international reputation for the production and distribution of quality wine for domestic and export markets.

The Australian wine industry is the world's fourth largest exporter of wine (by value) and fifth largest (by quantity). Approximately 750 million litres a year is exported, representing about 60 per cent of production.

In Australia the manufacturing and labelling of wine is regulated by federal and state law. There are mandatory labelling requirements in Australia which include product designation, statement of alcohol content, volume statement, country of origin, name and address, standard drinks measurement, allergens statement, vintage, variety and geographical indication and lot number.

Source: International Trade Centre

Wine Australia is a statutory body established in 1981 to provide strategic support to the Australian wine sector. Its responsibilities include:

- export regulation and compliance
- domestic and international wine promotion
- wine sector information and analysis
- maintaining the integrity of Australia's wine labels and winemaking practices
- defining the boundaries of Australia's wine producing areas
- assisting with negotiations with other countries to reduce trade barriers.

Wine Australia's regulatory activities are aimed at preserving Australia's internationally recognised reputation for quality and integrity. Wine Australia protects the integrity of Australian wine by licensing exporters, issuing permits for Australian wine exports and administering a label integrity program to prevent false or misleading labelling. It also maintains the register of protected geographical indications and other terms.

Under Wine Australia Corporation Regulations, all wine shipments over 100 litres require export approval. This requires obtaining a licence to export, product registration and an export permit. Licences are renewable annually, subject to set criteria and upon payment of a renewal fee. Products must be registered with Wine Australia prior to export.

Exporters must submit a shipping application for each consignment of wine leaving Australia that is in excess of 100 litres. A wine export levy is imposed on all exported Australian wine for the purpose of funding the export promotional operations of Wine Australia.

Wines labelled with an 'organic' claim must be certified as organic by an organisation accredited by the Australian Government's Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF). The exporter must provide a copy of the organic produce certificate for each shipment of organic wine in order to receive an export permit number.

The objective of the label integrity program is to help ensure the truth and reputation of statements made on wine labels about the vintage, variety and the geographic indication of the wine manufactured in Australia. An audit trail must exist if such claims are made. There are regulations associated with vintages, blending and geographic indication which must adhere to minimum percentage rules and be listed in descending order. A Wine Australia auditor may at any time request to see specific documents and product samples to ensure compliance with the Food Standards code.

—
Source: *Wine Australia Compliance Guide 2013* and various Wine Australia fact sheets.

› FURTHER INFORMATION

The Australian Trade Commission – Austrade – is the Australian Government's trade, investment and education promotion agency.

Contact your local Austrade representative about connecting and partnering with the Australian food industry. austrade.gov.au

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS

The following are some of the government and industry bodies involved in the Australian wine industry.

Wine Australia works with the wine sector to address international market access issues, reduce trade barriers and understand the regulatory requirements in key markets. wineaustralia.com
apluswines.com

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry develops and implements policies and programs that ensure Australia's agricultural, fisheries, food and forestry industries remain competitive, profitable and sustainable. daff.gov.au

Australian Food and Grocery Council is the leading national organisation representing Australia's packaged food, drink and grocery products manufacturers. afgc.org.au

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade works with other government agencies to ensure that Australia's pursuit of its global, regional and bilateral interests is coordinated effectively. dfat.gov.au

Food Standards Australia New Zealand develops food standards to cover the food industry in Australia and New Zealand. FSANZ develops the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code which regulates the use of ingredients, processing aids, colourings, additives, vitamins and minerals. foodstandards.gov.au

Foreign Investment Review Board examines proposals by foreign interests to undertake direct investment in Australia and makes recommendations to the Government on whether those proposals are suitable for approval under the Government's policy. firb.gov.au