



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 11/29/2004

GAIN Report Number: E34093

EU-25

Wine

Allergen Labeling on Wine

2004

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Report Highlights:

The EU's new allergen labeling rules also extend to alcoholic beverages. The presence of sulphites in wine must be indicated on the label. Alcoholic beverages not complying with the new rules will be prohibited as of November 25, 2005.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Brussels USEU [BE2]
[E3]

Allergen Labeling on Wine

In November 2003, the EU published Directive 2003/89/EC making the indication of allergenic substances on food labels mandatory. Directive 2003/89/EC is an amendment to the EU' general food labeling directive 2000/13/EC and establishes a list of allergenic substances. The new allergen labeling rules also extend to beverages containing more than 1.2% by volume of alcohol which are not required to list ingredients. EU member states must transpose the directive into national laws by November 1, 2004. Sales of products not complying with the new rules will be prohibited as of November 1, 2005. Products placed on the market or labeled before November 25, 2005 may be sold while stocks last.

On November 19, 2004, Commission Regulation 1991/2004 was published, amending Commission Regulation 753/2002 on the labeling of wine, to incorporate the provisions on allergen labeling. Starting November 25, 2005, alcoholic beverages containing sulphur dioxide and sulphites at concentrations of more than 10 mg/kg or 10 mg/liter expressed as SO₂ must be labeled "contains sulphites" or "contains sulphur dioxide". It is not necessary to put the indication of allergenic substances, as well as the compulsory particulars of the importer and the lot number, in the same visual field as the other compulsory particulars (sales designation, alcoholic strength, nominal value). Alcoholic beverages not complying with the new rules will be prohibited as of November 1, 2005.

Links to the referenced legislation on food labeling can be found on our website at www.useu.be/agri/label.html; links to the legislation on wine at www.useu.be/agri/wine.html.

Visit our website: our website www.useu.be/agri/usda.html provides a broad range of useful information on EU import rules and food laws and allows easy access to USEU reports, trade information and other practical information. E-mail: AgUSEU.Brussels@usda.gov

Related reports from USEU Brussels:

Report Number	Title	Date Released
E24043	EU Wine Labeling – Amended Rules	3/2/2004
E23180	Wine – EU Import & Labeling Rules	9/24/2003
E23247	U.S. Wine Derogations Extended	12/18/2003
E23186	New Allergen Labeling	9/30/2003

These reports can be accessed through our website www.useu.be/agri or through the FAS website <http://www.fas.usda.gov/scriptsw/attacherep/default.asp>.