

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Number: CI2022-0007

Report Name: Chile Facilitates Imports of US Beer

Country: Chile

Post: Santiago

Report Category: Export Accomplishments - Border Facilitation, Export Accomplishments - Market Access

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Report Highlights:

On February 22, 2022, the Chilean Ministry of Agriculture's Livestock and Agricultural Service modified the testing requirement for U.S. beer shipments to Chile. Beer from the United States will no longer need to be tested upon arrival to Chile. The product registration process remains the same. Additional details on the regulatory change and product registration follow.

Prior to February 21, 2022, Chilean regulation 2388 required testing of all imports of alcoholic beverages and vinegars, except wine. Every product line of each brand required testing every two years to allow for commercialization in Chile. The testing was ostensibly needed to verify potability, genuineness, and to ensure the compliance with Chilean regulations. Test results could take more than a month, during which time the product was held in storage. Once tested, product could be sold in country for two years. Countries that had a trade agreement with Chile and had testing regimes considered by Chile to be equivalent, like the EU, were exempt from the testing. Despite the U.S.-Chile FTA, Chilean authorities required testing for U.S. product.

For nearly five years, FAS, TTB, and USTR pressed Chilean authorities to remove the testing requirement, arguing that it disadvantaged U.S. exports against similar European products. Further, the measure was not reciprocal; the United States does not require samples or testing for imports of beer from any source, including Chile.

On February 22, 2022, the Chilean Ministry of Agriculture's Livestock and Agricultural Service (SAG) released Resolution 978, which recognizes U.S. and Chilean beer as substantially similar products. As similar products, Chilean authorities can no longer require the testing of imported U.S. beer, if they were appropriately registered in SAG's Alcoholic Beverage Registry. The registration process remained unchanged and must be completed by the importer prior to requesting an import permit. Product must be registered on SAG's beverage list only a single time, as opposed to the biannual testing. New products may be added to the registry any time before being exported to Chile.

Updated Requirements:

Under the updated regulation, beer importers must register new products on SAG's Alcoholic Beverage Registry. The registration process can be completed online [here](#) (see Figure 1). Once registered, products remain on the registry indefinitely and no longer require testing. The registration system requires that importers provide the name of the producer, name of the beer, alcohol per volume percentage, country of origin, and ingredients. Beers previously exported to Chile will remain on the list and should not need to be resubmitted. More information on imports of alcoholic beverages can be found on the ministry's [website](#).

Figure 1: Sample Registration Form



Código: F-CER-ECS-PA-013
Versión: 01
Fecha de Vigencia: 01-04-2013
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SOLICITUD DE INSCRIPCIÓN DE BEBIDAS ALCOHÓLICAS						
Art. 59. Reglamento Ley 18.455						
<input type="text"/>						
1.- DATOS DEL PROPIETARIO(A):						
NOMBRE O RAZON SOCIAL	:	_____				
RUT	:	_____ FO?: _____				
DIRECCION	:	_____				
REGION:	_____	PROVINCIA: _____	COMUNA: _____			
ENVASADOR:	<input type="checkbox"/>	IMPORTADOR:	<input type="checkbox"/>	EXPORTADOR:	<input type="checkbox"/>	
SEXO :	MASCULINO <input type="checkbox"/>	FEMENINO <input type="checkbox"/>	PERSONA JURIDICA <input type="checkbox"/>			
2.- DATOS DEL PRODUCTO:						
NOMBRE GENERICO	:	_____				
NOMBRE FANTASIA	:	_____				
COMPONENTES	:	_____				
GRADO ALCOHOLICO	:	_____	ORIGEN	_____	PROCEDENCIA	_____

For more specific details on Resolution 978, the full text is available online [here](#).

Beer remained among the top five agricultural and related products exported from the United States to Chile for the last five years. In 2021 beer exports from the United States reached \$178 million, their highest recorded level, making them the number one agricultural and related export product to Chile.

Attachments:

No Attachments.