

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: New EU Labeling Rules for Wines

Country: European Union

Post: Brussels USEU

Report Category: Wine

Prepared By: Sophie Bolla

Approved By: Joseph Taylor

Report Highlights:

On December 6, 2021, the European Union published new rules concerning wine, dealcoholized and partially dealcoholized wine, and aromatized wine. These new rules introduce a compulsory nutrition declaration and a compulsory list of ingredients for wine products sold on the EU market beginning on December 8, 2023. The EU also established the conditions under which wine products may be dealcoholized or partially dealcoholized.

On December 6, 2021, the three Regulations that make up the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)¹ were published in the EU's Official Journal: [Regulation 2021/2115](#), [Regulation 2021/2117](#) and [Regulation 2021/2116](#).

This report will look specifically at Regulation 2021/2117 which amends rules for wine, dealcoholized and partially dealcoholized wine, and aromatized wine.

Mandatory Nutrition Declaration and List of Ingredients

Under the Food Information to Consumers Regulation ([Regulation 1169/2011](#)), alcoholic beverages containing more than 1.2 percent of alcohol by volume are exempted from the obligation to bear a nutrition declaration and a list of ingredients. In order to provide a higher level of information to consumers, EU legislators decided to change the rule for wine products, which are regulated by the CAP. These changes do not apply to other alcoholic products such as beers or spirits.

Regulation 2021/2117 introduces for wines, aromatized wines and dealcoholized and partially dealcoholized wines:

- a compulsory nutrition declaration
- a compulsory list of ingredients

Regulation 2021/2117 leaves producers the option of having the nutrition declaration on the package or on a label limited to the energy value, which may be expressed by using the symbol “E” for energy. In such cases, the full nutrition declaration shall be provided by electronic means identified on the package or on a label attached thereto (e.g. via a QR code).

The Regulation also states that the nutrition declaration shall not be displayed with other information intended for sales or marketing purposes and no user data shall be collected or tracked.

However, the option of not providing a full nutritional declaration on the package or on a label attached thereto should not affect the existing requirement that the label list substances causing allergies or intolerances.

On June 24, 2021, the European Commission published [a roadmap](#) outlining its intention to revise the labeling rules on alcoholic beverages as part of its upcoming revision of Regulation (EU) 1169/2011. The revision will introduce a mandatory list of ingredients and nutrition information for all alcoholic beverages, including wines, placed on the EU market. In its roadmap, the Commission noted that the introduction of rules governing the labeling of wine ingredients and nutrition declaration by the CAP might be further amended to align with the horizontal rules adopted under the revision of Regulation 1169/2011.

Legal Framework for Dealcoholized and Partially Dealcoholized Wines

Regulation 2021/2117 also establishes the conditions under which certain grapevine products may be dealcoholized or partially dealcoholized:

¹ The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is the agricultural policy of the European Union.

- ⇒ Grapevine products are “dealcoholized” if the actual alcoholic strength of the product is no more than 0.5 percent by volume.
- ⇒ Grapevine products are “partially dealcoholized” if the actual alcoholic strength of the product is above 0.5 percent by volume and is below the minimum actual alcoholic strength of the wine category, as listed in Annex VIII of Regulation 1308/2013, before dealcoholizing.

The Regulation also lists the processes for dealcoholizing that are authorized:

- (a) partial vacuum evaporation
- (b) membrane techniques
- (c) distillation

Additionally, the dealcoholizing processes used shall not result in organoleptic defects of the grapevine product. The elimination of ethanol in grapevine products shall not be done in conjunction with an increase of the sugar content in the grape must.

The Regulation also mandates that wines that have gone through a dealcoholization treatment and have an actual alcoholic strength of less than 10 percent include a date of minimum durability (a ‘use by’ date) on the package or on a label attached thereto.

Date of Entry into Force

The new conditions under which certain grapevine products may be dealcoholized or partially dealcoholized entered into force on December 7, 2021.

The new rules on the mandatory nutrition declaration and list of ingredients will enter into force on December 8, 2023.

Attachments:

No Attachments.