Australia’s certification system for imported wine

Steve Guy – November 2012
Mandatory Items

**VOLUME**
Mandatory. Must be 3.3mm in height. May be presented on the front or back label.

**DESIGNATION**
Mandatory. Must convey the true nature of the food, for example the word ‘wine’ or the variety.

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN**
Mandatory. Wording is not defined, for example, ‘Wine of Australia’ or ‘Product of Australia’.

**ALCOHOL CONTENT**
Mandatory. Wording is not defined. Tolerances vary between products.

**ALLERGENS**
Mandatory. Sulphites in concentrations above 10ppm and processing aids including milk and egg must be declared.

**NAME AND ADDRESS**
Mandatory. The name and street address of responsible Australian entity - must not be postal address only.

**LOT NUMBER**
Mandatory. Must indicate batch number and production facility.

Australian Wine Labels

**STANDARD DRINKS**
Mandatory. Labels must declare the number of standard drinks it contains. ‘Contains approx x.x standard drinks’ or logo acceptable.

Rules regarding vintage, variety and region do not apply to imported wine.
Wine Composition

• Wine must not contain residues of agricultural chemicals in excess of maximum limit

• Approximately 30 winemaking additives are approved subject to limits of
  o 250 mg/kg Sulphites
  o 200 mg/kg Sorbates
  o 200 mg/kg DMDC
  o 400 mg/kg Yeast mannoproteins
  o 0.1 mg/kg Potassium ferrocyanide

• Additional limits on
  o 0.1 mg/kg Lead
  o 3 g/l of alc Methanol
Australia’s Certification Requirement
Why?

• Wine presents a low risk

• Risk based inspection at border – Wine low risk, therefore only 5% of consignments are inspected (the lowest legislated rate).

• Microbiological: None

• Physical: Label inspection (mandatory items-standard drinks, importer details, country of origin etc)

• Chemical: Sulphur dioxide tested if not declared on label