

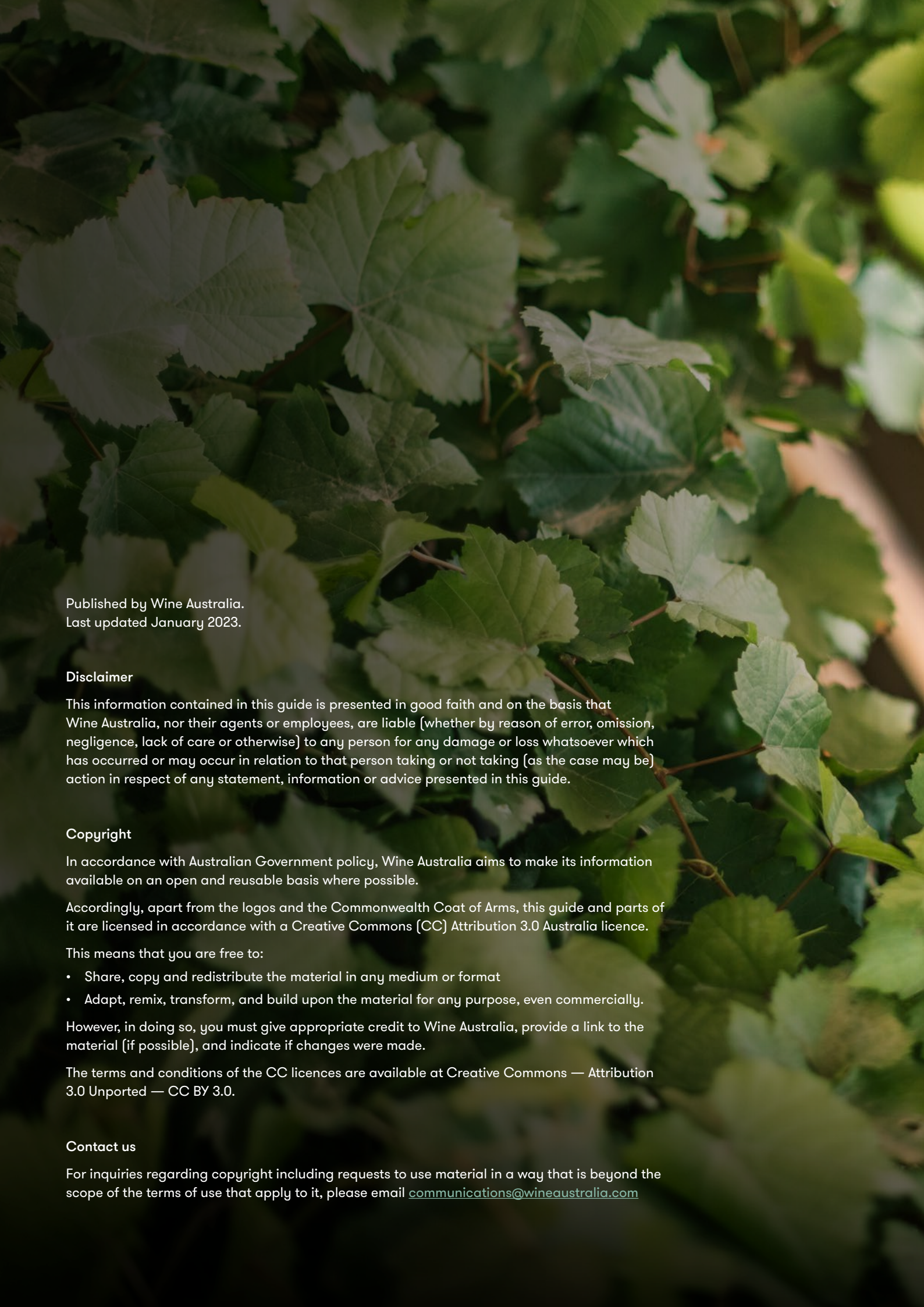


Australian Government

Wine Australia

A wide-angle photograph of a vineyard in Australia. The foreground shows rows of green grapevines supported by wooden posts, with a blue tag on one of the posts. The middle ground is filled with more rows of vines stretching across a valley. In the background, a dense forest of tall trees covers a hillside under a cloudy sky.

Wine Australia
Licensing and
Compliance Guide



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Glossary

ABN is a unique 11-digit number that identifies your business to the government and community issued through the Australian government's Business Registration Service.

Act means the *Wine Australia Act 2013* (Cth).

blend means wine manufactured by blending wines of different vintages, varieties or geographical indications.

CIF means Cost, Insurance and Freight (Port of Discharge) (Incoterms 2020)

- The seller delivers the goods on board the vessel or procures the goods already so delivered. The risk of loss of or damage to the goods passes when the products are on the ship.
- The seller must contract for and pay the costs and freight necessary to bring the goods to the named port of destination.
- The seller also contracts for insurance cover against the buyer's risk of loss of or damage to the goods during the carriage.
- The buyer should note that under CIF the seller is required to obtain insurance only on minimum cover. Should the buyer wish to have more insurance protection, it will need either to agree as much expressly with the seller or to make its own extra insurance arrangements.

Department means the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, or any of the subsequent names of this department.

description and presentation is a reference to all names (including business names) or other descriptions, references (including addresses), indications, signs, designs and trade marks used to distinguish the wine and appearing:

- on the container (including on the device used to seal the container or on a label affixed to the container), on any tag attached to the container or, if the container is a bottle, on the sheathing covering the neck of the bottle, or
- on protective wrappings (such as papers and straw envelopes of all kinds), cartons and cases used in the packaging of the wine or the transport of the wine, or
- in documents relating to the transport of the wine or in other commercial documents (e.g. invoices or delivery notes) relating to the sale or transport of the wine, or
- in advertisements relating to the wine.

EDN means Export Declaration Number.

ELISS means the Export Label Image Search System.

Export licence means a licence to export grape products from Australia issued in accordance with section 9(1) of the Regulations.

FOB means Free on Board (Port of Shipment) (Incoterms 2020)

- The seller delivers the goods on board the vessel nominated by the buyer at the named port of shipment or procures the goods already so delivered.
- The risk of loss of or damage to the goods passes when the products are on board the vessel. The buyer bears all costs from that moment onwards.

Food Standards Code means the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code.

geographical indication, in relation to wine goods, means an indication that identifies the goods as originating in a country, or in a region or locality in that country, where a given quality, reputation or other characteristic of the goods is essentially attributable to their geographical origin.

grape extract means grape juice, must or concentrate obtained from grapes.

grape product means:

- wine manufactured in Australia from prescribed goods
- brandy distilled in Australia from any such wine
- grape spirit manufactured in Australia from prescribed goods and suitable for the fortifying of wine or the manufacture of brandy, or
- a product (being prescribed goods or a product derived in whole or in part from prescribed goods) declared by the Regulations to be a grape product for the purposes of the Act.

label claim means a written claim that is made or implied about the wine goods' vintage, variety or prescribed geographical indication on a label; in a Label Integrity Program record; or in any other commercial document; or in an advertisement.

LIP means Label Integrity Program.

MRL means maximum residue limit.

organic claim means any claim that describes a product, or which describes the ingredients used to make a product, as organic, biodynamic, biological, ecological (or any other similar description), and includes products that are described as 'in-conversion' to organic or biodynamic.

prescribed geographical indication means a geographical indication included in the [Register of Protected Geographical Indications and Other Terms](#) in relation to Australia.

prescribed goods means fresh grapes, dried grapes and grape juice, whether single-strength or concentrated.

Register means the [Register of Protected Geographical Indications and Other Terms](#).

Regulations means the *Wine Australia Regulations 2018* (Cth).

WALAS means the Wine Australia Licensing and Approval System.

wine means an alcoholic beverage produced by the complete or partial fermentation of fresh grapes or products derived solely from fresh grapes.

wine goods means:

- wine, or
- grapes, or grape extract, used or intended to be used in manufacturing wine.

wine product means a food containing no less than 70 per cent wine which has been formulated, processed, modified or mixed with other foods such that it is not wine.

Introduction

Wine Australia is a statutory authority governed in accordance with the [Wine Australia Act 2013](#) (Act). Our powers and responsibilities are set out in the Act.

Wine Australia's regulatory framework includes:

- administration of the export controls on wine exported from Australia in accordance with Part 3 of the [Wine Australia Regulations 2018](#) (Regulations) by issuing licences, export approvals for grape products, and export certificates
- ensuring that grape products exported from Australia comply with the [Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code](#) (Food Standards Code)
- ensuring that exported products comply with the laws of the importing country
- maintaining the [Register of Protected Geographical Indications and Other Terms](#) in accordance with the Act, and
- ensuring the truth of claims made on wine labels about vintage, variety and origin through administration of the Label Integrity Program in accordance with Part VIA of the Act.

This guide has been developed by Wine Australia to assist the Australian wine sector to understand the regulatory requirements for the production, sale and export of Australian wine.



Exporting wine

Under the Regulations, all wine shipments over 100 litres require export approval from Wine Australia.

There have been controls on the export of grape products from Australia since 1930 with the underlying intent being to ensure the reputation of Australian wine is preserved globally.

Unless an [exemption](#) has been granted by Wine Australia, grape products exported from Australia must comply with the Food Standards Code. The Food Standards Code prescribes permitted [additives and processing aids](#) for wine and products containing wine. It also sets out mandatory [labelling requirements](#) such as those pertaining to allergens, standard drinks, alcohol content and lot identification.

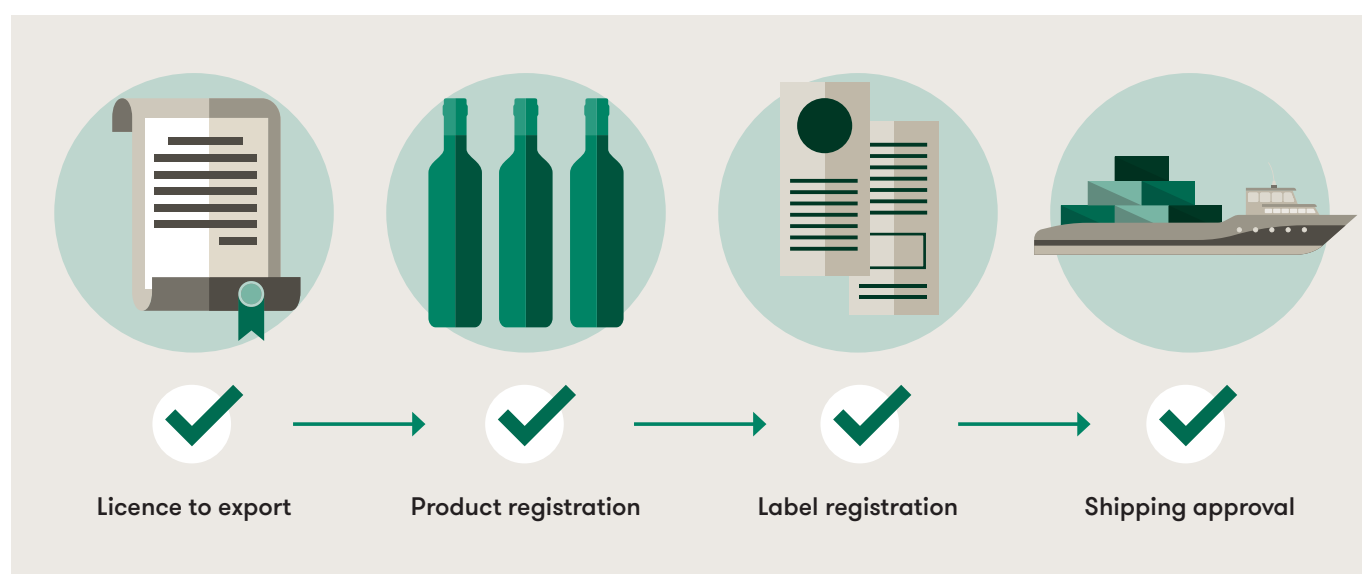
It is an offence under section 44 of the Act to export a grape product from Australia without the following being issued at Wine Australia's discretion in accordance with the Regulations:

- a licence to export grape products from Australia (which can be refused, cancelled or suspended by Wine Australia)
- approval of grape product for export (which can be refused, suspended or revoked by Wine Australia), and
- an export certificate (more commonly referred to as a 'shipping approval') in relation to individual shipments (which can be refused or revoked by Wine Australia).

The maximum penalty is two years imprisonment.

In making decisions in relation to licences, approval of grape products and export certificates, Wine Australia must have regard to the relevant criteria set out in the Regulations.

The export approval process encompasses the following steps (collectively the 'export controls'):



Which products are captured by the export controls?

The export controls apply to grape products as defined in the Act and the Regulations and includes:

- wine manufactured in Australia from prescribed goods (fresh or dried grapes or grape juice of single strength or concentrated)
- brandy distilled in Australia
- grape spirit manufactured in Australia suitable for the fortifying of wine or the manufacture of brandy, and
- a product that includes wine, is derived in whole or part from prescribed goods (fresh or dried grapes or grape juice of single strength or concentrated) and to which an Australian standard applies (i.e. 'wine products', 'wine-based beverages', low-alcohol wines, alcohol reduced wines).

Wine Australia's Licensing and Approval System (WALAS)

Australia's wine export controls are administered through Wine Australia's Licensing and Approval System (WALAS). WALAS allows users to:

- apply online for a licence to export, register products and apply for shipping approval
- upload labels
- edit shipping details
- apply for export documents
- manage associated exporters
- make payments online, and
- manage account access.

One-off applicants can use the PDF application forms found on the [Forms and Templates](#) page of the Wine Australia website. A \$5.00 manual processing fee applies.



The export controls

Licence to export

The Regulations require exporters of grape products to be licensed where individual shipments exceed 100 litres.

In accordance with section 9(1) of the Regulations, a person may apply to Wine Australia for a licence to export grape products from Australia.

In deciding whether to grant the licence, Wine Australia must consider the matters set out in section 9(3) of the Regulations, including:

- any matter that may adversely affect the export trade in grape products
- any other matter relating to the promotion of Australian grape products that relates to the applicant
- whether the applicant, or an associate of the applicant, has had a licence suspended or cancelled, and
- whether the applicant is a fit and proper person.

Wine Australia may also consider any other matter relating to the promotion of the export of grape products.

In deciding whether a person is fit and proper, Wine Australia must have regard to:

- whether the applicant or an associate of the applicant has been convicted of an offence against the Act
- whether a debt is due and payable by the applicant or an associate of the applicant under the Act
- whether wine export charges¹ due and payable by the applicant or an associate of the applicant have been paid, and
- whether a previous application made by the applicant, or an associate of the applicant, for approval of a grape product for export, or any other approval under the Act, has been refused or revoked.

Licences are not transferable and any change in the licensee's circumstances must be advised to Wine Australia as soon as practicable. Changes in a licensee's business address must be advised within 14 days. Licence application fees are not refundable if the applicant withdraws the application or Wine Australia determines not to grant the application.

Licences are issued for 12-month periods.

The Regulations provide for the suspension or cancellation of a licence for breaches of the Act or if Wine Australia considers that the exporter is no longer fit and proper to hold an export licence. For example, licences may be cancelled or suspended in circumstances where:

- an exporter has committed an offence relating to the description and presentation of a grape product (for example, the vintage, variety or origin of a product is incorrectly described)
- an exporter has failed to keep accurate records verifying claims made about the vintage, variety or origin in accordance with the LIP
- an exporter has sold or exported a grape product that does not comply with the Food Standards Code, or
- an exporter has engaged in an activity that might adversely impact the reputation of Australian wine overseas (such as having engaged in the production of copycat brands that are intended to leverage from the reputation of existing brand owners through causing confusion in market).

¹ As imposed in accordance with schedule 35 of the Primary Industries Levies and Charges Collection Regulations 1991.

Applying for a licence to export

You can apply for an export licence through [WALAS](#) once you have created an account. Instructions and an overview of the WALAS platform can be seen [here](#).

The application will ask whether you are a *Wine Grapes Levy Payer*. A Wine Grapes Levy payer is a person who pays a levy based on the volume of grapes crushed at a winery. Wine Grape Levy Payers are eligible for a reduced licence fee in the first year. If you are a Wine Grapes Levy Payer, you will need to include your ABN to be eligible for the reduced fee. If you are not liable to pay the Wine Grapes Levy you should select 'no'.

You may be asked to provide additional information to substantiate your entity type, for example, company director details, and/or copies of partnership agreements or trust deeds.

You can pay the licence fee online through WALAS. You should allow five business days for review and processing of your licence application. If your export licence is granted, you will receive an email notification with a link to a downloadable PDF document. You will also be assigned a Licence ID number which you will need for all interactions with WALAS.

Product registration

Licensed exporters may apply to Wine Australia through WALAS for the approval of grape products for export from Australia.

The product registration application must indicate:

- the vintage, variety and origin composition of the grape product
- the vintage, variety and origin claimed on the label of the grape product (packaged product only)
- the analytical details of the grape product, and
- the destination market of the grape product.

In deciding whether to approve a grape product for export, Wine Australia must consider:

- whether the grape product complies with the Food Standards Code
- whether the grape product is sound and merchantable, and
- whether the description and presentation of the grape product is appropriate having regard to the requirements of the Act, other Australian laws, and the laws of other countries.

Analysis is checked in WALAS to ensure compliance with any limits specified in the Food Standards Code. Label claims are checked against the product composition to ensure the claims meet the blending rules pertaining to [vintage, variety and origin](#). For packaged products, the post-bottling/packaging analysis must be submitted.

The application must also indicate whether the label makes any organic or biodynamic claims as such products must comply with the *Export Control Act 2020* administered by the Department (see [Organic goods certificate](#) below).

Approved packaged products are issued a PP number and approved bulk products are issued with a PB number.

In circumstances where Wine Australia is not satisfied that the grape product meets the requirements of the Act, other Australian laws, or the laws of other countries, Wine Australia may refuse to approve the grape product for export, or revoke approval of the grape product for export. It is also open to Wine Australia to impose a condition that limits the countries to which the export is approved.

Prior to issuing export approval of a grape product, it is open to Wine Australia to request information from the exporter in accordance with section 16 of the Regulations to satisfy it that the grape product is compliant with the compositional and labelling requirements of Australia and of the importing country.

Associated exporter

An exporter may authorise another exporter to ship their approved products by nominating them as an associated exporter in WALAS.

An exporter can invite another exporter to be their associated exporter by clicking on the 'Invite an associated exporter' button in WALAS. You will need to obtain the exporter ID from the associated exporter before starting this process.

After the invitation has been accepted by the associated exporter you can grant access to specific labels and volumes of wine by clicking on 'Link products to an associated exporter'.

Associations can be ended through WALAS at any time.

Label registration

Exporters are required to upload images of labels (front and back view (if applicable)) into WALAS as a precursor to gaining shipping approval for bottled/package products.

You can upload multiple back labels against a singular front label. The image of the wine label must be either JPG, PNG or TIFF format. The image size must be a minimum of 600 pixels × 600 pixels with a minimum resolution of 72 ppi. A photograph of the original artwork on the bottle will be accepted, provided it is in the correct file format.

If labels are to be applied in market, exporters can voluntarily upload labels after they are applied to ensure they appear in the [Export Label Image Search System \(ELISS\)](#).

In accordance with the Regulations, Wine Australia maintains ELISS which is a publicly accessible library of grape product labels exported from Australia. ELISS allows brand owners to identify potential breaches of intellectual property rights and provides a platform through which consumers can verify whether a label has originated in Australia.

For further information on ELISS see our FAQs [here](#).

Shipping approval

To complete the export approval process, licensed exporters must submit a shipping application to Wine Australia via [WALAS](#) for each consignment of wine leaving Australia that is in excess of 100 litres.

The application must include the shipping details including the date of export, destination country and consignee, along with a list of product labels identified by their product approval numbers and the volume in litres and FOB values that make up the consignment. If the consignment complies with all requirements, Wine Australia will issue an Export Permit Number (WBC number). The permit number is required to obtain an Export Declaration Number from Australian Border Force.



In accordance with section 19 of the Regulations, Wine Australia may ask the licensee to provide it with information demonstrating that a requirement under an Australian law that relates to the description and presentation of the grape product has been met.

Wine Australia will approve a shipment for export if it is satisfied that each of the grape products contained in the consignment has been approved for export, and if any condition imposed by Wine Australia has been met.

Wine Australia must refuse to approve a shipment for export if it reasonably believes that a grape product contained in the consignment cannot lawfully be sold in the country to which it is to be exported.

Shipping exemptions

The Regulations allow for specific exemptions to the general conditions of export under legislated circumstances. Exporters are exempt from the requirement to hold an export licence and register their products when one of the following conditions are met –


1. Shipments under 100 litres – defined as a consignment made up of one exporter, or one or more related exporters; on one ship or aircraft; to a single port of discharge; whether or not to one consignee.
2. Grape product that is:
 - contained in the personal luggage of a traveller
 - belonging to an individual who is moving house, for their domestic use
 - for display at a trade fair or comparable event
 - for a scientific or technical purpose
 - for diplomatic or consular establishments as part of the duty-free allowance of the establishment
 - held on board a means of international transport as victualling supplies, or
 - commercial samples for a prospective buyer.

You can apply for shipping exemptions through [WALAS](#). Exporters may need to supply supporting documentation including commercial invoices as part of the application.

Food Standards Code exemptions

Unless an exemption has been granted by Wine Australia, grape products exported from Australia are required to comply with the requirements set out in the Food Standards Code (as outlined in [Labelling](#) and [Additives and processing aids](#) below). In accordance with section 14(3) of the Regulations, Wine Australia may only provide an exemption if it is satisfied that the way in which it does not comply will not compromise the reputation of Australian grape products.

The table below sets out the broad exemptions to compliance with the Food Standards Code that have been approved by Wine Australia. Note that the exemptions apply to exported products only, they do not apply to products sold domestically.

Exemption	Food Standards Code reference	Details of exemption	Additional notes
English language requirement	Standard 1.2.1–24 specifies that any words required by the Food Standards Code must be in English.	<p>Provided a translation of the relevant label has been provided to Wine Australia and clearly identified against a product registered in WALAS, the following information may be provided in the importing country's language, rather than in English:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • name and address of supplier • name of food • allergens statements required under national legislation 	
Standard drinks labelling 	Standard 2.7.1–4 requires a statement of the approximate number of standard drinks in foods that are capable of being consumed as a beverage and which contains more than 0.5% alcohol by volume.	The declaration of the standard drinks statement required under Standard 2.7.1–4 of the Food Standards Code is not mandatory for grape products exported from Australia unless the destination market requires such a declaration.	Many markets either do not require standard drinks labelling or require standard drink, serves, or the like to be called out in different formats to that prescribed under the Food Standards Code.
Allergens declaration	Standard 1.2.3–4 requires a mandatory declaration of the presence of certain foods or derivatives of foods listed in the table to Schedule 9–3. For wine, this includes added sulphites in concentrations of 10 mg/kg or more, egg and milk.	<p>The declaration of the presence of egg and milk is not mandatory for grape products exported from Australia unless the destination market requires such a declaration.</p> <p>In markets where other allergens declarations are required, the declaration may be presented in the format specified under the legislation of the importing country.</p> <p>The exemption does not extend to the declaration of added sulphites which must be declared on export labels regardless.</p>	
Pregnancy warning labels	Standard 2.7.1–8 requires that from 31 July 2023 prescribed alcoholic beverages above 1.15% alcohol by volume must display the pregnancy warning mark on the product label and on outer packaging that will be used for retail sale.	Exported grape products do not need to be presented with the pregnancy warning label outlined in Standard 2.7.1–8 unless it is a requirement of the importing country.	The pregnancy warning logo (which forms a component part of the pregnancy warning mark) is mandatory in France. Use of the logo is not acceptable in markets that already prescribe pregnancy or other health warnings such as the United States.
Low and no alcohol descriptors	<p>Standard 2.7.1–5 restricts representations of low alcohol to alcoholic beverages which contain no more than 1.15% alcohol by volume.</p> <p>Standard 2.7.1–7 states that food containing alcohol must not be represented in a form which expressly or by implication suggests that the product is a non-alcoholic beverage.</p>	In circumstances where an importing country's laws apply different definitions for low and no alcohol descriptors, grape products exported from Australia may be represented using those descriptors provided the product meets the definitions under the importing country's laws.	For example, in the UK, drinks from which the alcohol has been extracted and containing no more than 0.05% alcohol by volume may be represented as 'alcohol free' (but not non-alcoholic) and grape products with 1.2% alcohol by volume or less may be represented as 'low alcohol'.
Sulphur dioxide composition	Standard 4.5.1 provides that wine, sparkling wine and fortified wine must contain no more than 250 mg/L in total of sulphur dioxide in the case of products containing less than 35 g/L of sugars, or 300 mg/L in total of sulphur dioxide in the case of other products.	The export of wine that does not comply with the sulphur dioxide limits set out in Standard 4.5.1 may be approved provided the grape product meets the rules of the destination market and is not considered to be a risk to the reputation of Australian wine.	–
Nutrition information panel	Standard 1.2.8 requires a Nutrition Information Panel (NIP) for standardised alcoholic beverages when a claim requiring nutrition information has been made on the label. Section 1.2.8-6(2) states that the NIP must be set out in the prescribed format in section S12-2.	Standard 1.2.8 requires a Nutrition Information Panel (NIP) for standardised alcoholic beverages when a claim requiring nutrition information has been made on the label. Section 1.2.8-6(2) states that the NIP must be set out in the prescribed format in section S12-2.	The Food Standards Code only requires a NIP on the label of standardised alcoholic beverages in circumstances where a nutrition claim, such as calorie content, has been made on the label.

Export documentation

Some customs authorities or importers require additional certification for wine imports. Wine Australia is authorised to issue VI-1 documents for exports to the EU and UK and Certificates of Origin for most markets. Wine Australia can also issue Certificates of Free Sale.

Wine Australia is an authorised body under the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement to issue certificates of origin for wine. Certificates of Origin for Thailand, the Philippines and Singapore need to be obtained via the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Certificates of Origin under the Japan and South Korea Free Trade Agreements can be obtained from the Australian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Exporters can apply for most export documents online via [WALAS](#).

VI-1 documents for the EU and UK

VI-1 documents are required for imports to the EU, including in relation to products exported from Australia to the UK, and subsequently re-exported to the EU. In these circumstances, the process is that Wine Australia will provide a VI-1 certificate to the exporter, and a second VI-1 will need to be obtained from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) in the UK and provided to the EU customs authority.

Exporters must obtain a VI-1 analysis report for each product destined for the EU. The analysis can be obtained from any NATA-accredited laboratory.

VI-1 documents are not required for consignments less than 100 litres or for exports to consular establishments or when held in stores on board ships and airplanes operating in international transport. Wine intended for display at trade fairs is also exempt from requiring a VI-1 document.

Wine Australia issues security encrypted VI-1 documents (in PDF) in WALAS after the date of departure indicated on the shipping application. It is open to the exporter or their agent or importer to print or download the VI-1 document and provide it to the relevant EU or UK authority. Exporters may still nominate for Wine Australia to print the VI-1 document issued in WALAS or choose to print the document themselves.

The analytes required for the VI-1 document differ for packaged and bulk wine and include the following parameters:

Analytical parameter	Packaged	Bulk
Total alcoholic strength - % v/v		•
Actual alcoholic strength - % v/v	•	•
Total dry extract - g/L		•
Total acidity - g/L	•	•
Volatile acidity - meq/L		•
Citric acidity - g/L		•
Sulphur dioxide - mg/L	•	•

Exemptions to the Requirement to have a VI-1 Document for Exports to the EU

You do not need a VI-1 document for wines exported from Australia to the EU that is:

- labelled containers of not more than five litres fitted with a non-reusable closing device where the total quantity transported, whether or not made up of separate consignments, does not exceed 100 litres
- in quantities not exceeding 30 litres per traveller contained in the personal luggage of travellers
- in quantities of not exceeding 30 litres, sent in consignments from one private individual to another
- forms part of the belongings of private individuals who are moving house
- for trade fairs - provided that the products in question are put up in labelled containers of not more than two litres fitted with a non-reusable closing device
- imported for the purpose of scientific or technical experiments, subject to a maximum of 100 litres
- bound for diplomatic, consular or similar establishments and imported as part of their duty-free allowance, or
- held on board international means of transport as victualling supplies

Organic goods certificate

The Department administers the export organic program for the organic and biodynamic sector in Australia.

Australia's agricultural export legislation comprises the *Export Control Act 2020* and the *Export Control (Organic Goods) Rules 2021*. Under the Organic Rules, the export from Australia of goods described as 'organic', 'biodynamic' (or indication of similar meaning, including 'biological', 'ecological' and 'in-conversion to organic or biodynamic') in a wine's description and presentation is considered an organic claim. Wines with organic claims require an Organic Goods Certificate (OGC) issued by an [approved certifying body](#) prior to export. It is an offence to export a product labelled as organic or biodynamic in the absence of an OGC and significant penalties apply.

Exporters of organic wine must upload an OGC to WALAS prior to gaining shipping approval.

Most markets including China, Japan, South Korea, the USA, Canada, the EU and UK have specific requirements for organic products that must be met to ensure market access.

Wine Australia has published an Organic Wine Export Requirements Guide which can be accessed [here](#).

Bulk wine exports

In preparing bulk wine exports (i.e. exports of unpackaged wine in containers such as Flexitanks, ISO tanks, kegs and barrels) it is recommended that exporters comply with the [Bulk wine loading, unloading and transportation procedure](#).

Wine Australia may prevent shipments to offshore facilities where the standards expected by the Australian wine community have not been met.

Review of decisions

Most decisions made by Wine Australia in relation to the administration of the export controls are subject to review by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT).

Applications may be made to the AAT for review of the following decisions of Wine Australia:

- a refusal to grant a licence to export or to suspend or cancel a licence to export
- a decision to refuse to approve a grape product for export or to revoke the approval of a grape product for export
- a decision to impose conditions on the approval of a grape product for export (including through variation of the conditions on an existing approval)
- a decision to refuse to issue an export certificate or to revoke an export certificate (here meaning an export permit)
- a decision to specify conditions on the validity of an export certificate (export permit), or
- a decision to give directions about the quantity of grape product that the licensee may export.

The person making an application to the AAT for a review of a decision made by Wine Australia is responsible for their own costs, including legal representation if desired.

Export Market Guides

To assist exporters in navigating the maze of regulations in overseas markets, Wine Australia publishes Export Market Guides in relation to over 40 key countries which include information on duties and taxes, wine standards, labelling regulations and other country-specific import requirements.

The Export Market Guides are available for download free of charge to all licensed exporters and levy payers via the [Wine Australia website](#).

Export fees and levies

Export fees are charged for most transactions in WALAS including licence applications and renewals, label registrations, shipping applications and export documents. See the Wine Australia website for current [fees](#).

The Wine Export Charge is levied on the export of Australian wine as a percentage of the FOB sales value. Information on the Wine Export Charge can be found [here](#).



Label Integrity Program

The Label Integrity Program (LIP) is legislated under [Part VIA](#) of the Act.

The object of the LIP is to help to ensure the truth, and the reputation for truthfulness, of statements made on wine labels, or made for commercial purposes, about the vintage, variety or the geographical indication (GI) of wine manufactured in Australia.

Vintage, variety and origin claims are not mandatory. However, if a claim is made, an auditable trail of records must be available to substantiate such claims so that the origin of a wine can be traced back to the vineyard.

The LIP imposes obligations on every party in the supply chain to make and keep records verifying vintage, variety and GI label claims made in relation to wine goods. The LIP does not prescribe how records are to be kept, only the information that must be recorded. This gives wine manufacturers flexibility in choosing a system that best suits their needs.

Who needs to keep records?

The LIP applies to:

- [wine grape growers](#)
- manufacturers of wine goods, including wineries, [packagers and processing facilities](#)
- persons who supply or receive wine goods (including a person who sells the wine goods by wholesale or retail or export), and
- agents who take possession of wine goods.

The LIP applies to [wine goods](#) which includes grapes, wine, and [grape extract](#) used or intended to be used in manufacturing wine.

What records need to be kept?

To verify label claims, everyone in the wine supply chain must keep an auditable trail of documents indicating the vintage, grape variety and geographical indication of wine and wine goods that they grow, manufacture, supply or receive (regardless of whether they are acting as an agent).

This effectively involves recording 'one step forward' and 'one step back'. Records must be maintained in a form that allows a readily auditable trail to be established.

LIP records must be kept for seven years.

Supplying wine goods

When you're *supplying* wine goods to another party (such as a grape grower supplying grapes to a winery, or a winery sending wine goods to another winery or a packaging facility), you must provide an accompanying written record on the day of supply, which includes at a minimum:

- the date you're supplying the wine goods
- the quantity of wine goods you're supplying, and
- the vintage, variety and [prescribed GI](#) of the wine goods you're supplying.

Receiving wine goods

When you're receiving wine goods (such as a packaging facility receiving wine from a winery, or winery receiving grapes during vintage) your own record must be made within three days of receiving the goods and must identify:

- who made the record
- the date you received the wine goods
- the type of wine goods and quantity of wine goods you received
- the vintage, variety and [prescribed GI](#) of the wine goods you received, and
- the identity of who you received the wine goods from (the individual or organisation's name and address).

Read more about harvest record keeping and grape intake [here](#).

Processing or modifying wine goods

Regardless of where you fit into the wine supply chain, if you process, move, or modify wine goods, you are required to make a written record within three days outlining:

- details of the steps or action taken and the date it occurred
- details of the vessels (e.g. tanks or barrels) that were involved in the processing step or movement (i.e. all vessels must be individually identifiable)
- any changes to volume or quantity that occurred, including both gains and losses (including increases as a result of water being added to high sugar juice or must prior to fermentation), and
- any changes to the composition of the product (vintage, variety or [prescribed GI](#)) that resulted through processing activities (such as blending or barrel topping).





What are the penalties?

There are offences under the LIP for:

- failing to keep sufficient records
- making a false record, and
- failing to verify a vintage, variety or GI claim with sufficient records.

A maximum penalty of two years' jail, or a fine of 120 penalty units instead of, or additional to imprisonment, applies for each offence.

Failing to comply with the LIP could also result in export licence cancellation or suspension, or your products being withdrawn from the market. Wine Australia can prevent the export and sale of grape products if vintage, variety or GI claims cannot be substantiated by records kept under the LIP.

LIP inspections

Under section 39ZA of the Act, Wine Australia appoints inspectors to monitor compliance with the LIP. You may at any time be selected for inspection by a Wine Australia Label Integrity inspector. The inspection may be remote or in person.

Inspectors may collect samples at inspections or request that you post samples to allow Wine Australia to verify compliance with the Food Standards Code (including MRLs) and to monitor potential exposure to market access issues that result from technical barriers to trade.



Inspection principles

The Government's vision is for Wine Australia to be a high performing and responsive corporate Commonwealth entity that implements a principles-based regulatory framework in a way that reduces compliance costs for business whilst protecting the reputation of Australian wine.

Wine Australia acknowledges that the regulatory framework it implements should be fit-for-purpose and implemented in a way that reduces the regulatory burden on individuals, business, community organisations and customers. In this context, the Government has issued a Statement of Expectations for Wine Australia, which outlines the Government's expectations of the role and responsibilities of Wine Australia.

Risk management principles underpin Wine Australia's LIP inspection schedule. These principles involve assessing the magnitude of the risk; and the likelihood and consequence of non-conformance with the LIP.

Culture of compliance

To create a 'culture of compliance' in the sector the following actions are taken on an ongoing basis:

- the inspection program each year includes a mix of states, and old and new regions
- wineries which exhibit regular or potentially serious errors (usually associated with export approval procedures) are subject to more frequent scrutiny
- during inspections, time is spent discussing the current label range of the winery and the various laws which are applicable
- new wineries are identified and provided with a range of regulatory information and an offer to provide a label advisory service
- offers are made to talk to regional associations and tertiary educational bodies when a regional visit for inspection purposes is proposed
- wine compliance brochures are widely distributed to the broader grape and wine community, including relevant students and lecturers, label designers, and manufacturers, and
- compliance awareness and issues are regularly featured in Wine Australia publications.

External corrective actions

Wine Australia's stated objective in relation to export controls is to preserve Australian wine's international reputation for quality and integrity. Wine Australia acknowledges that breaches range from accidental, deliberate or recurring non-compliance, to serious breaches of food law involving health risks to consumers and long-term damage to the international reputation of Australian wine. Wine Australia's regulatory posture acknowledges that its regulatory response should be proportionate to the seriousness and the risks posed by a breach.

Acts or omissions that are likely to invoke a regulatory response by Wine Australia include but are not limited to:

- accidental or deliberate failure to provide accurate and adequate records in accordance with the LIP
- accidental or deliberate non-compliance with labelling or analysis requirements
- sale or export of wine that is unmerchantable
- failure to meet requirements of an importing country, or
- any act or omission that has the potential to compromise the reputation of Australian wine.

Templates and guides

- [Grower guide to the Label Integrity Program](#)
- [Packager's guide to the Label Integrity Program](#)
- [Wine goods supply statement template](#)
- [Record keeping templates](#)
- [Record keeping instruction tutorial](#)
- [Label opinion request form](#)
- [Organic Wine Export Requirements](#)

The blending rules

Australia's blending rules are outlined in sections 25, 26 and 27 of the Regulations and prescribe the minimum compositional requirements for making vintage, variety and GI claims. Compliance with the blending rules is monitored through the LIP. There are various offences under the Act that apply to the sale and export of wine that does not comply with the blending rules.

The table below provides a summary of the blending rules. Any claim must be listed in descending order of its proportion in the wine.

	Single claims	Multiple claims	
 <p>Vintage claims</p>	 <p>Minimum 85%</p>	 <p>Minimum 100%</p>	<p>If you claim your wine is made from multiple vintages, varieties or GIs, you need to list each vintage, varietal and GI in descending order.</p> <p> If you claim multiple vintages, the total amount claimed must add up to 100%.</p> <p>So, if your wine is 88% from the 2012 vintage, 2012 can be claimed. If your wine is 83% from 2012, 16% from 2014 and 1% from 2017, and you want to claim vintage, then you have to specify the presence of all vintages, even the 2017.</p>
 <p>Variety claims</p>	 <p>Minimum 85%</p>	 <p>Minimum 85%</p>	<p> If you add juice or concentrate to sweeten, seed or culture your wine, it doesn't count towards varietal composition as long as you don't add more than 5%.</p> <p>Also, you can't leave a variety off a label unless you have listed all the varieties that appear in greater proportions on that label.</p> <p>So, if your wine is 70% Semillon, 20% Chardonnay and 10% Sauvignon Blanc, you can't label your wine as 'Semillon Sauvignon Blanc'. The wine would either need to be labelled as 'Semillon Chardonnay' or 'Semillon Chardonnay Sauvignon Blanc'. You couldn't label your wine as just 'Semillon', because less than 85% of the blend is Semillon.</p>
 <p>Geographical Indication (GI) claims</p>	 <p>Minimum 85%</p>	 <p>Minimum 95%</p>	<p> You can claim multiple GIs, but only if each of the GIs claimed accounts for more than 5%. The maximum number of GIs you can claim is three.</p> <p>So, if your wine is made from 85% Barossa Valley fruit, then you can claim 'Barossa Valley'. If your wine is made from 83% Barossa Valley fruit, 13% Heathcote and 4% Pemberton, and you want to claim GI, then it would need to be labelled 'Barossa Valley Heathcote'. You couldn't list Pemberton on the label.</p>



Vintage

A **vintage** is the year in which the grapes were harvested. In the case of fruit harvested after September 1 in a calendar year and on or before December 31, the following calendar year is the effective vintage date. Be careful about using other [dates on labels](#) to avoid misleading as to the vintage of the wine.

Variety

Only grape **varieties** recognised by one of the following organisations are permitted to be claimed on Australian wine labels:

- OIV (International Organisation of Vine and Wine)
- UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants), or
- IPGRI (International Plant Genetic Resources Institute).

Only variety names or their synonyms that appear on one of these lists may be claimed on labels. Made up names that resemble varieties, such as 'Savvy' for Sauvignon Blanc cannot be used.

The [OIV list of vine varieties and their synonyms](#) permitted for use by Australia can be downloaded from the Wine Australia website.

For the purpose of determining the proportion of the varieties, the quantity of products used for possible sweetening and cultures of microorganisms, not exceeding a total of 50 mL/L (5 per cent), must be excluded.

Geographical indication

A **geographical indication (GI)** is a word or expression used in the description and presentation of a wine that identifies the goods as originating in a country, or in a region or locality in that country, where a given quality, reputation or other characteristic of the wine is essentially attributable to their geographical origin.

GIs protected under Australian law are published in the [Register of Protected Geographical Indications and Other Terms](#) which is maintained by Wine Australia.

Exported 'wine products' are not permitted to include a geographical indication (other than 'Australia') in their description and presentation.

Description and presentation

The [Register](#) contains protected Australian and European GIs and other terms including European traditional expressions, Australian fortified wine terms and additional terms.

Part VIB of the Act makes it an offence to sell, import or export a wine described or presented with a term on the Register that it is not entitled to. The rules apply even when a protected term is accompanied by expressions such as 'kind', 'type', 'style', 'imitation', 'method', or any such similar expression, and even when a term 'so resembles' a protected term in a way that is likely to mislead. Accordingly, descriptors such as 'Barossa style' or 'Champagne method' are not permitted, regardless of whether they are likely to mislead as to origin.

There are exceptions to the offence provisions for:

- GIs registered for more than one place
- inclusion of the name of an individual who manufactured, sold, exported or imported the wine
- inclusion of the [address of a winery at which the wine was manufactured](#), and
- common English words that are used in good faith and where the label indicates the true origin of the wine.

Read more on frequently asked questions about using protected terms [here](#). Below are some examples of labels described and presented with GIs in breach of the Act.

VINEYARD
ESTATES
2021
Clare Valley Shiraz

Produced by Vineyard Estates, 123 Street,
Tanunda, Barossa Valley SA 5352

The exception for winery addresses with a GI does not apply because Barossa Valley is not a necessary part of the physical address.

VINEYARD
ESTATES
2020 SAUVIGNON BLANC
ADELAIDE HILLS

Our winemaker completed several vintages in Bordeaux before arriving in Australia to start up a new winemaking venture.

This is a false description and presentation because it includes a registered GI and the wine is not from the referenced GI.

VINEYARD
ESTATES
2021 SEMILLON
HUNTER VALLEY

Our winery is situated in the softly undulating hills of McLaren Vale. The grapes for this wine were sourced from our vineyards in the Hunter Valley.

This is a false description and presentation because the wine is not from McLaren Vale, even though the statement may be true and even if supplemented by clarifying information.

Labelling

The following section provides detailed information on the labelling requirements that apply to wine labels in Australia. Information on labelling requirements for export markets are outlined in the [Export Market Guides](#) published on the Wine Australia website.

Wine labels are governed by a number of different Commonwealth and State legislation including:

- *Wine Australia Act 2013*
- *Wine Australia Regulations 2018*
- *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code*
- *National Measurement Act 1960*
- *National Trade Measurement Regulations 2009*
- *Competition and Consumer Act 2010*
- *State Food Acts*

Example Australian wine label

BRAND NAME
Optional. Brand names should not mislead as to the origin, age or identity of the wine.

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
Mandatory for domestic stock. Wording is not defined, for example, 'Wine of Australia' or 'Product of Australia'.

NAME OF FOOD
Mandatory. Must convey the true nature of the food, e.g. 'wine' or 'Pinot Noir'.

ALCOHOL CONTENT
Mandatory. Must show percentage of alcohol by volume. Tolerances vary between products.

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

PREGNANCY WARNING
Mandatory from 31 July 2023. Approved image must be displayed within a black border on white background with clear space of 3mm. Size requirements apply.

NAME AND ADDRESS
Mandatory. The name and street address of vendor, manufacturer, packer or importer.

GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION
Optional. Must be 85% if claimed. Up to three GIs may be claimed and must total 95% (with min 5% from each GI) and be listed in descending order.

VARIETY
Optional. Must be 85% if claimed. Multiple variety claims must total 85% and be listed in descending order.

VINTAGE
Optional. The harvest year. Must be 85% if claimed. Multiple vintage claims must total 100%.

STANDARD DRINKS
Mandatory. Labels must declare number of standard drinks. 'Contains approx X.X standard drinks' or logo acceptable.

LOT IDENTIFICATION
Mandatory, although the form is not prescribed.

ALLERGENS
Mandatory. Sulfites above 10mg/kg and milk and egg must be declared. From 25 Feb 2024, required allergen names (sulphite, milk and egg) must be used, but otherwise the format is not prescribed.

Mandatory labelling requirements

Name of food (Standard 1.2.2-2)

The Food Standards Code requires labels to include an appropriate name or description of the food. There are no prescribed names, but the food must convey the true nature of the product. For example, names such as 'wine', 'chardonnay', 'shiraz' or 'sparkling wine' would be sufficient provided that any claimed grape varieties meet the blending rules and that use of any terms defined in the Food Standards Code (i.e. 'wine', 'sparkling wine', 'fortified wine' and 'brandy') meet the conditions as summarised under [Additives and processing aids](#) below.

Wine products are defined as food containing no less than 700 mL/L (70 per cent) of wine as defined in the Standard, which has been formulated, processed, modified or mixed with other foods such that it is not wine. 'Wine product' alone, however, may not be sufficient to convey the true nature of the product. Wine Australia advises that wine products with added water, colours, flavours etc, be labelled as a 'wine-based beverage' with added descriptors as needed. Exported wine products are not permitted to claim a geographical indication (other than 'Australia') on their labels.

Lot identification (Standard 1.2.2-3)

Identifying your 'lot' or batch is mandatory under the Food Standards Code. Lot identifiers are primarily for traceability purposes in the event of a recall or withdrawal. If a product is not lot marked, then all product carrying the same label may be compulsorily recalled by health authorities instead of just the affected production run.

For Australia, there's no prescribed format, but it typically takes the form of an alpha-numeric code. Some wineries use a code that's modelled on a day/month/year format. Some markets (such as the European Union) require the lot code to commence with the letter L.

The lot identification may be placed anywhere that will be visible after finished packaging and is often stamped on the bottle at the time of bottling. **If you have a single product from a single batch, the label itself could be the lot identifier.**

Read more about the lot identification [here](#).

Name and address of supplier (Standard 1.2.2-4)

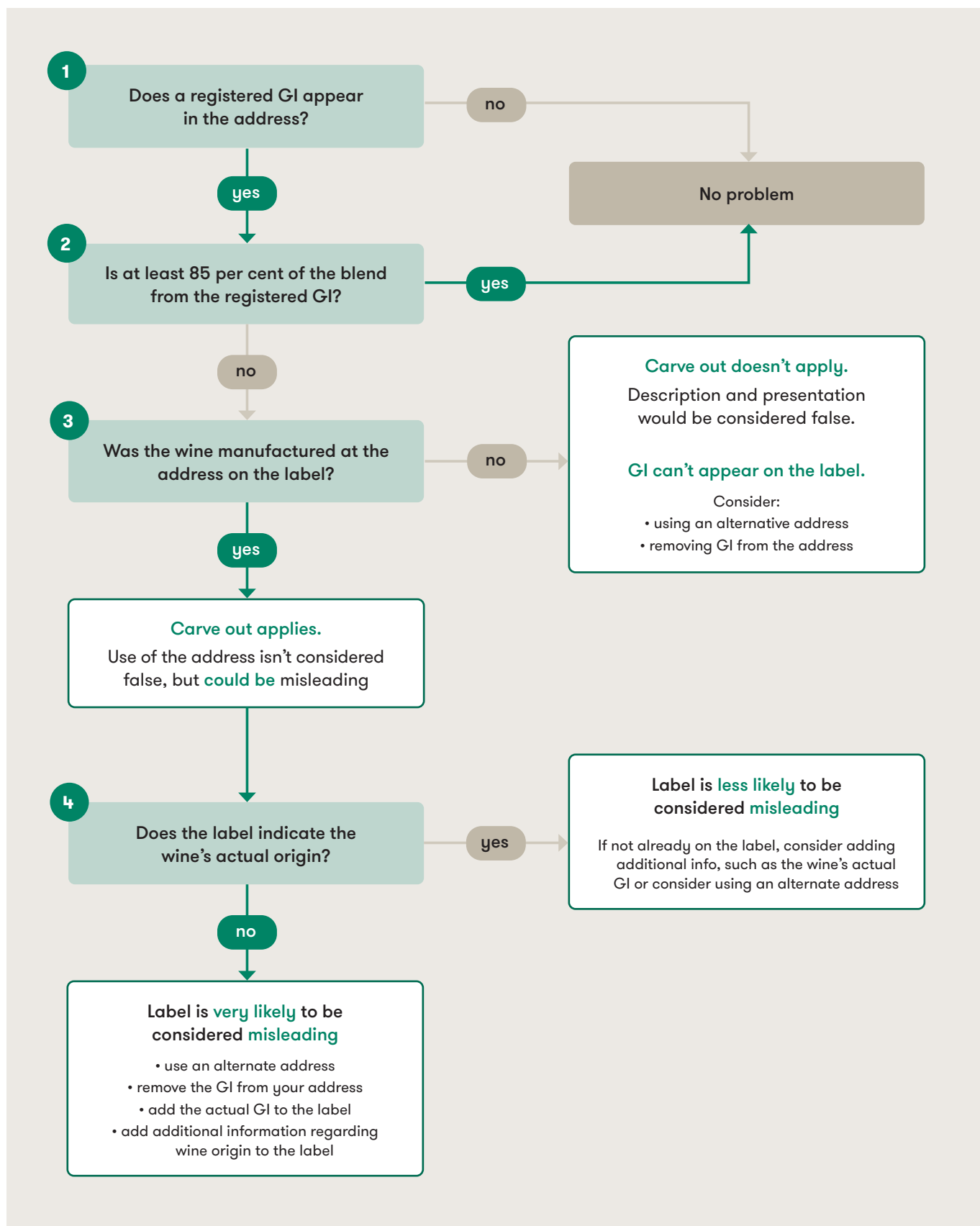
The name and business address of the supplier (defined as the Australian or New Zealand vendor, manufacturer, packer or importer) must be placed on the label. The address must show the road or street number (if any), road or street name, suburb, town, State/Territory (or postcode). Postal addresses (e.g. PO Box or RSD numbers) cannot be used instead of a physical address.

The marking of the name and address is also required under section 4.7 of the *National Trade Measurement Regulations 2009*.

Registered geographical indications in addresses

Using an address that includes a geographical indication could result in a non-compliant label under the false and misleading [description and presentation](#) provisions of the Act. An address can contain a registered GI in circumstances where the fruit was not sourced from that GI, but it is required to identify the location of the place in which the wine was manufactured. This doesn't include cellar door or vineyard addresses, and the way in which the address is displayed must not be misleading as to the origin of the grapes.

If your wine isn't sourced from the GI used in the address, this flow chart will help you determine if GI use may be considered either false or misleading.



Read more about registered GIs in addresses [here](#).

Mandatory advisory statements (allergens) (Standard 1.2.3-4)

Certain foods and ingredients can cause severe allergic and other adverse reactions in some people. The Food Standards Code requires these to be declared on labels when they are present in food.

On 25 February 2021 the Code was amended to introduce new requirements for the labelling of allergens in food.

In accordance with the Code, allergen information must be declared using the required name of the food in simple, plain English terms.

Businesses have 3 years from 25 February 2021 to implement the new requirements. During this transition period, food businesses can comply with either the existing allergen declaration requirements in the Code (which do not specify the wording to be used), or the new requirements.

A 2-year stock-in-trade period will follow the transition period. Any food packaged and labelled with existing allergen declarations before the end of the transition period may be sold for up to 2 years after the end of the transition period.

From 24 February 2024, the required names as applicable to wine and wine products must follow the wording as outlined in the table below:

Food	Required name for declaration
added sulphites in concentrations of 10 mg/kg or more	sulphites
egg	egg
milk	milk

Other than the required name of the food for the declaration, the format is not otherwise prescribed for standardised alcoholic beverages (including wine and wine product).

Wine is exempt from the requirement to declare isinglass derived from fish on the mandatory declaration.

Be aware that some allergenic substances can come from obscure sources. For example, some caramels used in the production of fortified wines are produced from wheat (gluten), and some 'technical' corks may be manufactured using casein-based glues that may leach into the product. Refer to [Schedule 9](#) of the Code for advice on the mandatory declarations for other foods.

Wine manufacturers are advised to seek written advice from suppliers as to the source of any additives, processing aids or packaging or other products that potentially could be the source of allergenic substances. Sources of allergenic substances could include failure to adequately clean production machinery, failure to adequately segregate allergenic substances in storage or on the production line, accidental or subversive addition of substances, or the failure of suppliers to identify such substances in their products.

Exporters should take particular note of any allergen labelling requirements in the destination market as some markets specify the format and language. In some export markets allergens labelling for wine is not required. Wine Australia has issued a [broad exemption](#) from the requirement to declare the presence of egg and milk in markets where allergens declarations are not mandatory. The exemption does not extend to the declaration of added sulphites which must be declared on export labels regardless. Refer to the [Export Market Guides](#) for further assistance.

Sulphite and preservative free wines

Even if no sulphur dioxide has been added, care must be taken in any claim that a wine contains 'zero sulphur' or is 'preservative free'. Yeast can naturally produce sulphites during the fermentation process. 'Preservative free' should only be claimed if there are no quantifiable levels of sulphur dioxide in the wine. If there is less than 10 mg/kg of naturally occurring sulphur dioxide a claim such as 'no added preservatives' may be acceptable.

Statement of alcohol content (Standard 2.7.1–3)

An alcohol statement is mandatory for foods containing more than 0.5% alcohol by volume. For a food (including an alcoholic beverage) that contains more than 1.15% alcohol by volume, the statement must be expressed as the percentage of alcohol by volume (e.g. '13.5% alc/vol').

For an alcoholic beverage that contains not less than 0.5% and not more than 1.15% alcohol by volume, the alcohol content must be expressed in words to the effect 'contains not more than x% alcohol by volume'.

An alcoholic beverage which contains more than 1.15% alcohol by volume must not be represented as a 'low alcohol' (or words to a similar effect) beverage.

The alcohol content statement must be accurate to within:

- 1.5% alc/vol for wine, sparkling wine and wine products containing more than 6.5% alc/vol
- 0.5% alc/vol for spirits, brandy and fortified wine, and
- 0.5% alc/vol for all other alcoholic beverages containing more than 1.15% (to less than 6.5% alc/vol).

It is important to note that the above information relates to Australian and New Zealand requirements only and the tolerance for the alcohol statement may differ for export markets. Further information relating to alcohol labelling tolerance for export markets can be found [here](#) and in the [Export Market Guides](#).





Standard drink statement (Standard 2.7.1-4)

A standard drink is defined as the amount of beverage which contains 10 grams of ethanol, measured at 20°C. The label on a beverage or a food capable of being consumed as a beverage, which contains more than 0.5% alcohol by volume, measured at 20°C, must include a statement of the approximate number of standard drinks in the package:

- in the case of packages containing 10 or less standard drinks, accurate to the first decimal place, or
- in the case of packages containing more than 10 standard drinks, accurate to the nearest whole number of standard drinks.

The formula for the calculation is:

container volume (litres)
× % alcohol/ vol (mL/100mL)
× 0.789 (specific gravity of ethanol)
= number of standard drinks.

For example, a 750mL bottle which contains 14% alc/vol would be calculated:

$0.75 \times 14 \times 0.789$
= 8.28, rounded to one decimal place
= 8.3 standard drinks.

The statement should be worded 'Contains approximately 8.3 standard drinks'. Alternatively, the approved [Australian Grape & Wine](#) logo may be used.

Note, while the standard drink concept is accepted and well-understood in Australia, this is not necessarily the case in other markets and a standard drinks statement may not be allowed in some export destinations. Wine Australia has issued a [broad exemption](#) from the requirement to label standard drinks for exported grape products. Markets that do not permit Australian standard drinks on export labels include the United States and Canada. It is acceptable to label standard drinks on Australian labels in the EU and UK markets due to the *EU-Australia Wine Agreement*.



Pregnancy warning labels (Standard 2.7.1–8)

The Food Standards Code was amended on 31 July 2020 to require packaged alcoholic beverages with greater than 1.15% alcohol by volume to display a pregnancy warning mark.

Downloadable labels can be obtained from the [FSANZ website](#).

There is a three-year transition period, ending 31 July 2023, for producers to start including the pregnancy warning mark on their packaging. Stock labelled after 31 July 2023 must include the mark, but stock labelled prior to 31 July 2023 may be sold after this date without adding the mark.

‘Pregnancy warning mark’ means the following image comprising:

- the pregnancy warning pictogram (silhouette logo) in black and red
- the signal words ‘PREGNANCY WARNING’ capitalised and in red, bold, sans serif font, and
- the statement ‘Alcohol can cause lifelong harm to your baby’ in black, sans serif sentence case.



The three components must appear contained within a black border, on a white background. The warning mark must be displayed with clear space of 3 mm surrounding the border.

The size requirements for an individual unit (e.g. a bottle, can or cask) are shown in table 1 below. ‘Size of type’ means the measurement from the base to the top of a letter or numeral.

Table 1: Warning mark requirements for individual units

Individual unit volume	Warning label to be displayed	Size of pictogram	Size of type of signal words	Size of type of the statement
200 mL or less	Pictogram only	At least 8 mm diameter	Not applicable	Not applicable
Between 201 mL and 800 mL	Full pregnancy warning mark	At least 6 mm diameter	At least 2.1 mm	At least 1.6 mm
More than 801 mL	Full pregnancy warning mark	At least 9 mm diameter	At least 2.8 mm	At least 2.1 mm

The outer packaging of prescribed alcoholic beverages that will be used for retail sale (e.g. presentation box, multi-unit wrap or 6-pack/12-pack cartons) also require a pregnancy warning mark. If outer packaging doesn’t obscure the individual unit (e.g. a cellophane wrap or similar) then it doesn’t require a pregnancy warning mark. Note, this requirement only applies to outer packaging for retail sale to the consumer rather than boxes solely used for transport.

The size requirement for outer packages is shown in table 2 below.

Table 2: Warning mark requirements for outer packaging

Package type	Warning label to be displayed	Size of pictogram	Size of type of signal words	Size of type of the statement
Outer package containing only one inner individual unit, with a volume not more than 200 mL	Pictogram only	At least 8 mm diameter	Not applicable	Not applicable
Outer package containing either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one individual unit over 200 mL • multiple inner units, more than 200 mL each • multiple inner units, not more than 200 mL each 	Full pregnancy warning mark	At least 11 mm diameter	At least 3.5 mm	At least 2.7 mm

Wine Australia has issued a [broad exemption](#) from the pregnancy warning label requirement for exported grape products.

Country of origin statement (CCA ss 24–25)

Country of origin labelling requirements are regulated by the [Country of Origin Food Labelling Information Standard 2016](#) made under the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010*, administered by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC).

Alcoholic beverages are one of a small number of non-priority foods that are exempt from the country of origin food labelling system. For non-priority foods, the use of the standard marks (see right) are voluntary rather than mandatory. Non-priority foods must carry a country of origin text statement about where the food was grown, produced, made or packed.

Imported foods must also display country of origin information. Like non-priority foods, imported foods only have to carry a text statement.

Section 8 of the Country of Origin Food Labelling Information Standard defines the terms ‘grown’, ‘produced’ and ‘made’ as follows:

grown:

- a) a food or ingredient was grown in a country if it:
 - i. was materially increased in size or materially altered in substance in that country by natural development, or
 - ii. germinated or otherwise arose in, or issued in, that country, or
 - iii. was harvested, extracted or otherwise derived from an organism that has been materially increased in size, or materially altered in substance, in that country by natural development.
- b) a food consisting of more than one ingredient is also grown in a country if:
 - i. each of its significant ingredients was grown in that country, and
 - ii. all, or virtually all, of the processing occurred in that country.

made: a food was made in a country if it underwent its last substantial transformation in that country.

produced: a food was produced in a country if:

- a) each of its significant ingredients was grown or otherwise wholly obtained in that country, and
- b) all, or virtually all, of the processing occurred in that country.

In addition, section 24 of the Regulations requires that if a wine is made from grapes grown in more than one country, the description and presentation must identify the proportion from each country. The 85 per cent rule for single-GI claims does not apply to the country of origin.

If packaging a multiple-origin wine, a statement such as ‘*Wine packaged in Australia from X per cent Australian and Y per cent [country B] produce*’ would satisfy both domestic and export requirements.

For export, it’s recommended that country of origin labelling is separated from any GI claim. For example, statements such as ‘Wine of Western Australia’ or ‘Wine of Margaret River, Australia’ should be avoided. Note that for export to many countries the format of the ‘country’ statement is prescribed. Many producers now elect to use the EU format that requires the word wine in combination with the country claim (e.g. ‘Wine of Australia’).



Standard mark for priority foods. Wine is not a priority food.

Volume statement (National Trade Measurement Regulations)

Wine in standard size containers (50 mL, 100 mL, 187 mL, 200 mL, 250 mL, 375 mL, 500 mL, 750 mL, 1 litre, 1.5 litres, 2 litres, 3 litres, or a larger quantity of whole litres), is exempt from the general requirement that measurement markings appear on the principal display panel.

Accordingly, Australian wines may indicate the volume on any label, however, exporters should be aware of the 'single field of vision' concept applicable in [World Wine Trade Group](#) member countries and the European Union and UK.

The statement of quantity must be:

- of at least the prescribed minimum character height (refer to the table below)
- close to the name or brand of the product
- at least 2 mm from the edges of the package
- at least 2 mm in any direction from any graphics or written copy
- in metric units and in clear English, and
- clear and stamped or printed in distinct colour contrast to the background graphics.

Minimum print sizes depending on the largest dimension of the container are also applicable. In the case of a bottle, this is the bottle height in millimetres. For a cask, it is the measurement of the longest edge. For a standard 750 mL wine bottle, the minimum character height is 3.3 mm.

Largest package dimension	Minimum print height*
< 120 mm	2.0 mm
120 to < 230 mm	2.5 mm
230 to < 360 mm	3.3 mm (standard 750 mL bottle)
> 360 mm	4.8 mm

* Minimum print height applies to the shortest character in the statement

Accepted units for the volume statement are L (litre), dL (decilitre), cL (centilitre) or mL (millilitre).





Additional labelling considerations

Legibility (Standard 1.2.1-24)

There are no print size specifications under the Food Standards Code other than the general legibility requirements which requires any mandatory statement to be in English and be legible and prominent so as to contrast distinctly with the background of the label.

Date marking (Standard 1.2.5)

A best-before-date is mandatory on products with less than two years' shelf life. The Food Standards Code defines the 'best before' date as:

the date which signifies the end of the period during which the intact package of food, if stored in accordance with any stated storage instructions, will remain fully marketable and will retain any specific qualities for which express or implied claims have been made.

In the case of wine and wine product, this normally would only apply where plastic or other non-glass packaging is used and where a limited shelf life (less than two years) is likely. However, if the description and presentation of the wine claims or implies certain qualities (such as freshness, drink whilst young etc.) then a 'best before' date is required unless any such claims would remain valid for at least two years.

The date must appear in the format 'best before [month] [year]' e.g. 'best before Dec 21' or 'best before 12 21' and the label must include a statement of any specific storage conditions required to ensure the food will keep for the specified period.

Nutrition and health claims (Standard 1.2.7-4)

The Food Standards Code prohibits health claims and nutrition content claims in respect of a product that contains more than 1.15% alcohol by volume with the exception of energy, carbohydrate or gluten content claims.

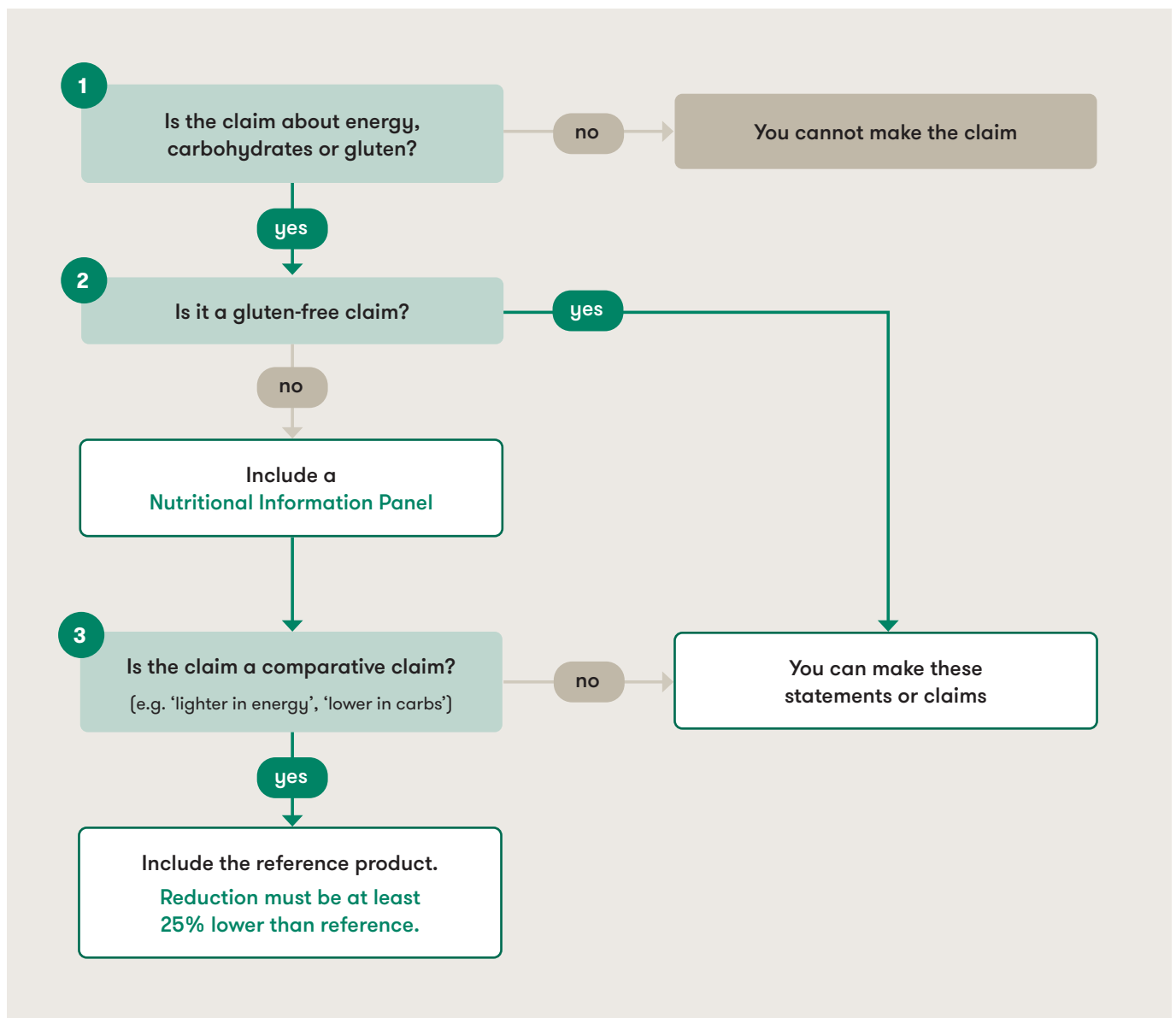
A health claim means a claim which states, suggests or implies that a food or a property of food has, or may have, a health effect. Nutrition content claims are about the presence or absence of certain nutrients or substances in a food such as biologically active substances (e.g. resveratrol, polyphenols, antioxidants), protein, sodium and vitamins.

If you make an energy or carbohydrate content claim you must include a [nutritional information panel](#) (NIP) on the label. Gluten free claims do not require a NIP.

Comparative claims such as 'lighter in energy' or similar must additionally indicate the reference product. The difference between the amount of the property of food in the claimed food and the reference food must be at least 25% lower e.g. 'Lighter in calories wine – at least 25% less calories compared to [2020 brand Shiraz]'.

Read more about nutrition content and health claims [here](#).

If you want to make a nutrition content claim, this flow chart will help determine whether your claim meets the requirements.



Representations of light, low and no alcohol (Standard 2.7.1)

Any alcoholic beverage containing more than 1.15% alcohol by volume must not be represented as a 'low alcohol' beverage.

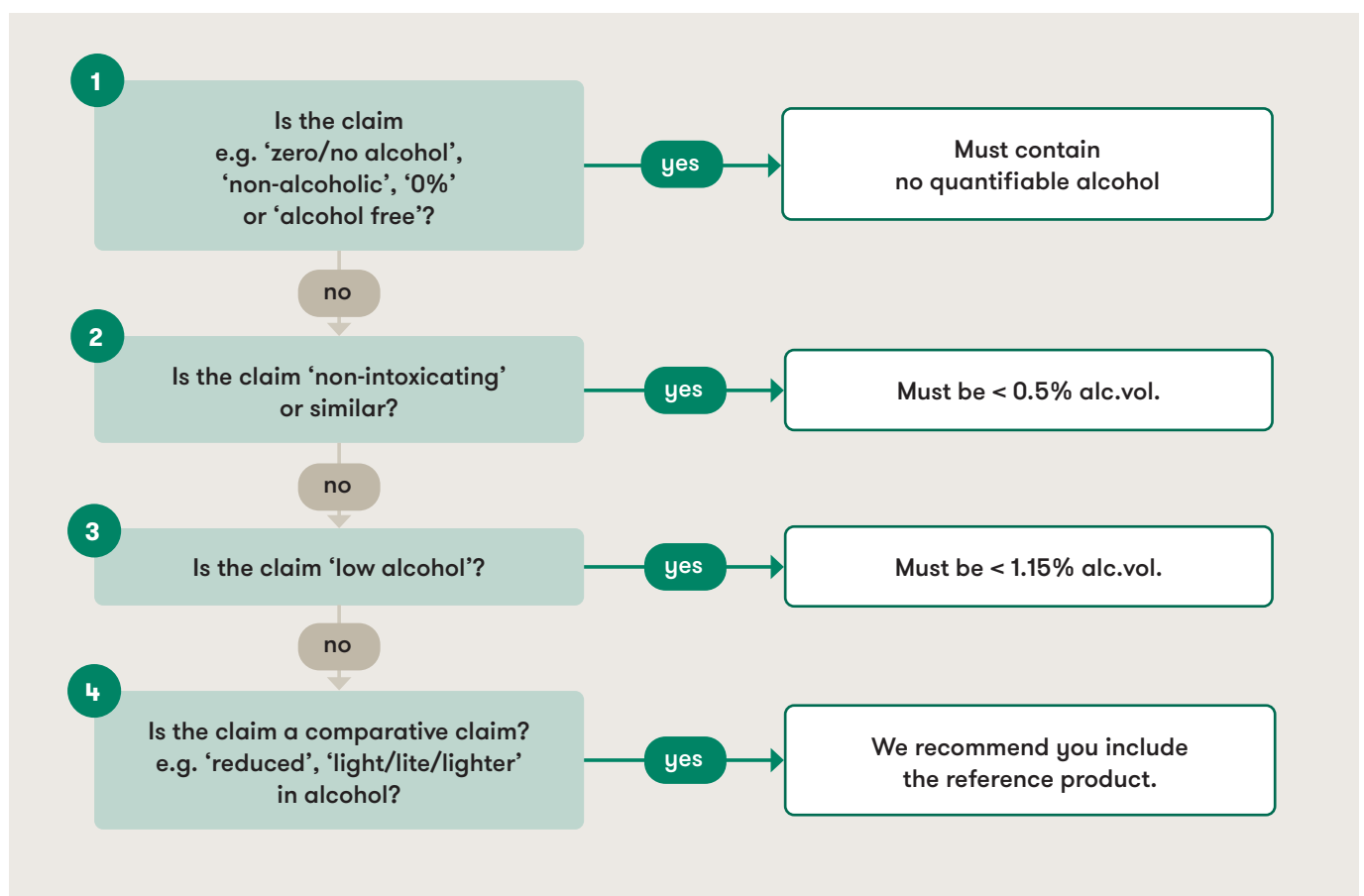
Similarly, the label on a package of a beverage containing more than 0.5% alcohol by volume must not include the words 'non intoxicating' or words of similar meaning.

Food containing alcohol must not be represented in a form which expressly or by implication suggests that the product is a non-alcoholic beverage e.g. 'zero alcohol' or 'no alcohol'. As test reports rarely quote zero you should be able to support a zero/no alcohol claim with a report quoting the alcohol as less than the limit of quantification (LOQ).

It should be highlighted that terms such as 'zero' are not defined. Rather it is the implication or overall impression given on the label that a product contains no alcohol. For example, the word 'zero' used in conjunction with other mitigating information such as 'contains less than 0.5% alcohol' would remove the implication that the product is a non-alcoholic beverage.

The term 'light' is not defined in the Food Standards Code. A claim such as 'light alcohol' is not considered a nutrition content claim, however, would likely be considered a comparative claim. Accordingly, Wine Australia recommends the label indicate the identity of the reference food and the difference between the amount of the claimed food and referenced food e.g. 'Lighter in alcohol wine – at least xx% lighter in alcohol compared to [2020 brand Shiraz].

This flow chart will help determine whether your claim meets the requirements.



Refer to Wine Australia's [Low Alcohol Wine Guide](#) for further information.

Australian Consumer Law

Any product sold in Australia is subject to the Australian Consumer Law, which prohibits conduct in trade or commerce which is misleading or deceptive or likely to mislead or deceive. See the ACCC's guidance on making [premium claims](#) and [Green Marketing Guide](#). In short, any claims must be honest, accurate and able to be substantiated.

Certain wine label claims that would come under these provisions include statements such as 'single vineyard', 'barrel fermented', 'estate bottled', 'established in xxxx' etc.

Refer to the Wine Australia website for further information on [voluntary labelling terms](#).

Optional information

Amber/Skin contact wine

[Orange](#) became a registered geographical indication on 31 October 1997, and as such, is afforded the same level of protection as all other registered GIs. Therefore, the term 'orange wine' cannot be used to describe skin contact white wines, unless the fruit has been sourced from the registered GI, Orange.

An exemption from the false and misleading [description and presentation](#) provisions exists to allow for the use of a 'common English word', which orange would qualify for. However, it must be used in good faith, and in such a way that is not likely to mislead as to the origin of the wine. To make it abundantly clear to the consumer that orange is being used to describe colour there must be sufficient context to support the claim, i.e. 'Wine with an orange hue' or 'orange in colour'. Alternatively, 'amber' is an acceptable replacement for orange when presenting or describing skin contact white wines, or wines that are amber in colour.

Apera and Topaque

'Apera' and 'Topaque' are registered certification trade marks of Wine Australia which may only be used by approved users. The term Apera was developed by the wine sector to replace Sherry, with this term protected since 1 September 2011. The term Topaque replaced 'Tokay', which was protected since 1 September 2020. Use of the terms is subject to conditions including, but not limited to the following:

Apera

- the term may only be used to describe Australian fortified wines
- the fortified wine must comply with the taste, aroma and characteristics of an Apera wine referred to in the [Australian Wine Industry Fortified Wine Code of Practice](#)
- the term must appear on the label in the same field of vision as the producer's distinguishing trade mark, and
- the term must always appear with a font size equal to or less than 50 per cent of the size of the distinguishing trade mark.

Topaque

- the term may only be used for Australian fortified wines, and
- the fortified wine must comply with the [Australian Wine Industry Fortified Wine Code of Practice](#).

If you wish to use either term on your label, contact [Wine Australia](#). A copy of the current licence agreements can be found for Apera [here](#) and for Topaque [here](#).

Bar codes

Bar codes are not required by law or regulated as to size or placement. They are, however, increasingly required by wholesalers and retailers in Australia and overseas. The 13-digit EAN (European Article Number) is the most commonly used in Australia and Europe and the only one now accepted in Canada. The USA accepts both EAN and the 12-digit UPC (Universal Product Code). The EAN system can read UPC, but the reverse does not apply.

For further information regarding either system contact [GS1 Australia](#).

Brand names

Brand names (or any other name) should not mislead as to the origin, age or identity of the wine. If a brand name (or business name) contains a registered geographical indication it can only be used on the label when the wine has been sourced from the relevant GI.

Regulation 32 of the *Wine Australia Regulations* allows for the co-existence of Australian geographical indications and trade marks which were registered by IP Australia prior to the registration of the geographical indication. Refer to [Description and presentation](#) above.

Cabernets

The term 'Cabernets' was adopted by the Australian wine industry to replace the term 'Bordeaux' which was listed on the Register as a protected geographical indication in 1994. Not to be confused with the varietal claim 'Cabernet', which is a synonym for Cabernet Sauvignon, the term 'Cabernets' may be used in the description and presentation of a wine in place of a varietal claim to indicate one of two types of blends:

- a blend comprising at least 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and/or Ruby Cabernet, or
- a blend comprising at least 85% of traditional 'Bordeaux' varietals (Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Malbec and/or Petit Verdot) provided that at least one of Cabernet Sauvignon or Cabernet Franc contribute to the blend.

The context in which the term 'Cabernets' is being claimed must be clearly indicated on the label.

Carbon neutral claims

Carbon neutral claims are used to convey a message about the volume of carbon emissions associated with a particular thing, most often a product or an organisation. If a wine or a winery claims to be 'carbon neutral', then the net emissions associated with that wine or winery must be zero. Carbon neutral claims must comply with the [Australian Consumer Law](#). This means that they must not be false, misleading or deceptive. Care should be taken when using broad terms that are capable of multiple meanings – for example: 'green', 'carbon friendly', 'carbon compensated' and 'environmentally safe'.

Wine Australia has developed a Carbon Neutral FAQs document which includes details on the [Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standards](#) administered by the Department of Environment and Energy and links to the [AANA Environmental Claims Code](#). The FAQs can be viewed [here](#).

Carton labelling

The *National Trade Measurement Regulations* requires that if a pre-packaged product is packed or sold, the package containing the product must be marked with the name and address of the person who packed the product or on whose behalf it was packed. The carton must indicate either the total volume of the inner packages or the number of packages and the volume of each (e.g. 12 × 750 mL).

If products are offered for sale to consumers in the carton as a consumer unit (e.g. a three-bottle presentation pack) the Food Standards Code requires that all mandatory information for a wine label be reproduced (or the information be visible on the inner packages) on the outer carton.

If a carton is being utilised for transportation purposes only, the mandatory information, including the pregnancy warning logo, is not required to be displayed on that carton.

Cleanskins (unlabelled wine)

It is not legal to sell or export wine without all mandatory items appearing on the packaging. Unlabelled bottles cannot be sold at retail to the public, but unbroken cartons of bottles can be sold if the mandatory information appears on the carton in an acceptable form. However, mandatory warning declarations including allergens and the pregnancy warning must still appear on every bottle.

Dates on labels

Care should be taken when using historical dates or additional numeric references in the description and presentation of a wine to avoid misleading as to the vintage of the wine. Other years may be referred to on wine labels, for example, to indicate when the winery was established, when a vineyard was planted, or when the winemaker joined the winery. When such references are made, it's important to make sure that they won't be interpreted as vintage claims.

To ensure references to a year that isn't a vintage year is permissible, you should:

1. give context to the non-vintage year (for example, use words like 'planted in', 'established in' or 'produced since')
2. ensure the actual vintage claim is clearly stated
3. ensure the actual vintage claim appears in the same field of vision as the reference to the other year, and
4. ensure the actual vintage claim is more prominent than the reference to the other year.

Further information on using dates on labels can be seen [here](#).

Display of awards and medals

The use of medals or awards in the description and presentation of wines is permitted, however care should be taken that they do not clash with any other labelling consideration (such as use of a protected term). The Australian wine sector has developed a *Display of Awards Code of Practice* which outlines how awards should be displayed. The Code is available from the AGW [website](#).

Read more about the use of awards and medals [here](#).

Fortified wine terms

A number of fortified wine terms are protected on the [Register](#). It is an offence under the Act to include a registered term in the description and presentation of a wine that does not comply with the registered conditions of use applicable to that term. Refer to the [Australian Wine Industry Fortified Wine Code of Practice](#) for further information. The protected terms and their conditions of use are outlined in the table below.

Term	Conditions of use
Cream	<p>Describes a style of Australian fortified sweet wine of not less than 5 baumé. The wine will be pale yellow to light amber in colour, rich and sweet to taste and typically with a vinous to fruity aroma.</p> <p>The wine can be blended from more than one vintage and typically does not exhibit age-derived characters. Ageing takes place in a variety of vessels. Fortification must be from Australian grape spirit. In addition, for the export market, the wine will be produced using the solera system, including being aged in oak barrels for at least three years.</p>
Crusted/Crusting	<p>Describes a fortified wine in which deposits may develop in the bottle.</p>
Ruby	<p>Describes a style of Australian fortified wine that receives only a few years of ageing prior to bottling. At bottling the wine retains a deep ruby colour and tends to be robust in character, full bodied and fruity.</p> <p>The wine can be blended from more than one vintage, with a view to sustaining the primary characteristics of colour and aroma. Fortification must be from grape spirit. In addition, for the export market, the ageing of the wine will include, as a minimum, ageing in oak barrels for four months.</p>
Solera	<p>Describes a system of using casks/barrels containing wines of varying ages. The wines from the barrel containing the oldest mix of vintages is taken from the solera. All of the wines in the barrels of the solera then cascade in order of age and the barrel containing the youngest mix of wines refreshed with new wine. The process gives a blended product, ranging from pale straw to a dark amber colour depending on the style being produced. This process is reserved for the production of fortified wines.</p>
Tawny	<p>Describes a style of Australian fortified wine that receives varying years of ageing prior to bottling. At bottling the wine has a red-gold or 'tawny' hue. The wines should reflect the characteristics of careful aging showing 'developed' rather than 'fresh' fruit characters. However, many show the fresh well developed 'fruit' characteristics of younger wine.</p> <p>The wine is usually blended from more than one vintage, may be matured in oak containers and reaches an optimal age before sale. Fortification must be from grape spirit.</p>
Vintage	<p>Describes a style of Australian fortified wine that is produced from a single vintage year. These high quality wines are characterised by relatively long periods of bottle maturation. They are generally deep in colour, full bodied and smooth. They are entitled to bear the designation 'vintage' and the corresponding year.</p> <p>These wines are characterised by the ability to improve with age in bottle and benefit from prolonged cellaring. Such wines are aged for a minimum of twenty months prior to release. Fortification must be from Australian grape spirit. In addition, for the export market, the ageing of the wine will include, as a minimum, ageing in oak barrels for four months.</p>

Icewine

Icewine is protected on the [Register](#). The terms 'icewine', 'ice wine' or 'ice-wine' may only be used in the description and presentation of a wine when the wine is obtained exclusively from grapes naturally frozen on the vine. It is an offence under the Act to include a registered term in the description and presentation of a wine that does not comply with the registered conditions of use applicable to that term.

Maps on labels

Maps appearing on labels, brochures and advertising etc. form part of the description and presentation of the wine. If a geographical indication is named or referred to on a map, and the wine is not sourced from that GI, then it is a false or misleading label claim.

Moscato

Moscato is protected on the [Register](#). The term ‘Moscato’ may only be used in the description and presentation of a wine when at least 85 per cent of the wine is obtained from a list of defined Muscat varieties (including Muscat a Petits Grains, Muscat of Alexandria, Muscat Gordo, Muscat Hamburg, Gewurztraminer etc). Refer to the Register for the full list of varieties. It is an offence under the Act to include a registered term in the description and presentation of a wine that does not comply with the registered conditions of use applicable to that term.

Read more about use of Moscato [here](#).

Organic and biodynamic wine

Organic products intended for the Australian market are not required to be certified in order to be labelled ‘organic’. There is a voluntary standard for growers and manufacturers wishing to label products as ‘organic’ and ‘biodynamic’ for sale within Australia (AS 6000-2015). As it is a voluntary standard, businesses do not necessarily have to meet the requirements of this standard in order to label and sell their products as ‘organic’ or ‘biodynamic’ within Australia.

While organic certification is not legally required for a product supplied in Australia to be described as organic, businesses must be able to substantiate any such claims. Many organic businesses choose to be certified by an organic certification body to underpin truth in labelling requirements and promote consumer confidence. Certification for organic claims can be made by any of the many private organisations that perform this function.

Misleading, false or deceptive organic claims are prohibited under the Australian Consumer Law. The ACCC provides useful guidance on [environmental and organic](#) claims made in the domestic market.

For export, organic and biodynamic goods must comply with the *Export Control Act 2020* and Export Control (Organic Goods) Rules 2021. Further information is outlined in [Export documentation](#) above.

For export, organic certification is mandatory. Any mention of ‘organic’ or ‘biodynamic’ (or indication of similar meaning) in a wine’s description and presentation is considered an organic claim. Wines with organic claims require organic certification for export approval, and exporting wines presented as organic without certification is an offence under the Organic Goods Rules and can attract significant penalties. Further information can be found [here](#).

Pinots

The term ‘Pinots’ may be used to describe a blend of two or more Pinot varieties including Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier, Pinot Blanc and Pinot Gris, when these varieties comprise at least 85% of the blend.

Single Vineyard

There isn’t a legal definition of ‘single vineyard’, hence the general requirement to ensure the statement doesn’t mislead or deceive the consumer will apply. Wine Australia’s view is that the description of a wine as ‘single vineyard’ has the potential to mislead and/or deceive a consumer if the fruit used to make the wine was not sourced from a single vineyard.



Sparkling wine terms

Sparkling

The Food Standards Code defines a sparkling wine as a wine which has become surcharged with carbon dioxide as a result of complete or partial fermentation of contained sugars. Accordingly, wines which are carbonated by means of the addition of carbon dioxide to achieve effervescence may not be labelled as 'sparkling'.

Methode champenoise

Methode champenoise is protected on the [Register](#). The term 'methode champenoise' may only be used in the description and presentation of wines originating in the place indicated by the geographical indication 'Champagne'. It is an offence under the Act to include a registered term in the description and presentation of a wine that does not comply with the registered conditions of use applicable to that term.

Traditional method

Traditional method is not a regulated term but is understood to indicate a sparkling wine made in the methode champenoise. 'Traditional method' may be used as an alternative descriptor on Australian sparkling wines.

Methode traditionnelle

The term methode traditionnelle is not a protected term and may be used as an alternative descriptor to 'methode champenoise' on Australian sparkling wines.

Pét-nat

Pét-nat, or Pétillant Naturel, is a term commonly used to describe a type of sparkling wine that is made using lower intervention and natural fermentation processes. Pét-nats are bottled before the fermentation process is fully complete, resulting in carbon dioxide being formed from the natural sugars in the wine. The resulting wine is often cloudy in appearance. The term is not regulated but in order to satisfy the requirements of the Australian Consumer Law you should ensure wines labelled with this term are representative of the type of products that consumers would expect.

Vegetarian and vegan claims

Wine Australia does not regulate the use of 'vegetarian' or 'vegan' claims in relation to wine labelling.

'Vegan' is not defined, however, most consumers would understand vegan produce as not being made from, or perhaps not even coming into contact with any animal product, animal by-product or derivative of animal product such as gelatin, milk, egg or fish based fining agents used in the manufacture of wine. Other animal products that may be used in manufacturing wine include beeswax to seal bottles and agglomerated corks which use milk-based glues. The Australian Consumer Law prohibits businesses making 'vegan' or 'vegetarian' statements that are incorrect or likely to create a false impression.

The ACCC views label references to vegan as food type assurance claims. 'Food-type assurance claims' means claims referring to specific systems or processes that have been put in place to provide assurance to specific consumer groups or tastes. Claims that give such assurances must have a factual basis. For example, claims may be substantiated through well-documented certification processes and certification performed by authorised persons. Alternatively, you should be able to show reliable documentation to support your claim.

There are a number of vegan and vegetarian societies that have registered certification trade marks that you can apply for and pay to use.

Imported wine

Imported wine, other than wine from New Zealand,² must comply with the *Imported Food Control Act 1992* which specifies that imported food comply with the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code.

The labelling requirements set out in [Part 1.2](#) and [Part 2.7](#) of the Food Standards Code, and outlined above, applies to imported wines. Imported wine must also comply with the production limits set out in [Part 1.3](#) and [Part 1.4](#) of the Food Standards Code and the related schedules, particularly [Schedules 15, 16, 18, 19 and 20](#). The wine production requirements set out in Standard 4.5.1 apply only to Australian wines.

If an imported wine refers to a foreign country geographical indication or foreign place name at least 85 per cent of the wine must have been obtained from grapes grown in the country, region or locality indicated by the GI. If the wine is made from grapes grown in more than one country, the description and presentation of the wine must identify the proportion of the wine that originated in each country.

The false and misleading offence provisions of the *Wine Australia Act* also apply to imported wine if that wine has a description and presentation that includes a registered geographical indication or a registered translation of the indication and the wine did not originate in the country, region or locality indicated, or if the wine includes a registered traditional expression or a registered additional term and the wine does not comply with any registered conditions of use.

² New Zealand wine enters Australia under the Trans Tasman Mutual Recognition Agreement and the Australia New Zealand Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement. Wine legally sold in New Zealand can be sold in Australia.

Additives and processing aids

Wine composition and labelling compliance under the Food Standards Code is regulated domestically by the State Health Authorities in accordance with the various State Food Acts.

Wine Australia is responsible for ensuring compliance with the Food Standards Code at the point of export. Exporters can apply to Wine Australia for permission to export a product that does not comply with the Food Standards in circumstances where the product complies with the importing country's requirements.

Food Standard 4.5.1

Australian wine production is governed by Standard 4.5.1 of the Food Standards Code. Standard 4.5.1 applies only to the production of wine in Australia.

Definitions

Wine means the product of the complete or partial fermentation of fresh grapes, or a mixture of that product and products derived solely from grapes.

Sparkling wine means the product consisting of wine that by complete or partial fermentation of contained sugars has become surcharged with carbon dioxide. Sparkling wine:

- may contain grape spirit, brandy and sugars provided that their addition does not increase the alcohol content by more than 25 mL/L at 20°C, and
- must contain no less than 5 g/L of carbon dioxide at 20°C.

Fortified wine means the product consisting of wine to which has been added grape spirit, brandy or both. Fortified wine may also contain caramel.

Grape spirit means the spirit obtained from the distillation of wine or the by-products of winemaking or the fermented liquor of a mash of dried grapes and contains methanol in a proportion not exceeding 3 g/L at 20°C of the ethanol content.

Brandy means the spirit obtained by the distillation of wine in such a manner as to ensure that the spirit possesses the taste, aroma and other characteristics generally attributed to brandy, in accordance with the following requirements:

- a) must be matured in wooden containers for no less than 2 years
- b) must contain no less than 250 mL/L of the spirit distilled at a strength of no more than 830 mL/L at 20°C of ethanol,
- c) may contain:
 - i. water
 - ii. caramel
 - iii. sugars
 - iv. grape juice and grape juice concentrates
 - v. wine
 - vi. prune juice
 - vii. honey
 - viii. flavourings; and
- d) must not contain methanol in a proportion exceeding 3 g/L at 20°C of the ethanol content thereof.

Wine product means a food containing no less than 700 mL/L (70 per cent) of wine, which has been formulated, processed, modified or mixed with other foods such that it is not wine.

Wine composition

Analytical parameter	Specification	
	Minimum	Maximum
Alcohol by volume @ 20°C		
Still and Sparkling Wine	4.5%	-
Fortified Wine	15%	22%
Methanol (red wine, white wine, fortified wine)		3g methanol / L of ethanol
Sodium Chloride		1 g/L
Potassium Sulphate		2 g/L
Phosphorus		400 mg/L
Volatile Acidity		1.5 g/L
Cyanides		0.1 mg/L



Additives

A food additive is any substance not normally consumed as a food in itself and not normally used as an ingredient of food, but which is intentionally added to a food to achieve a technological function (e.g. antioxidant, preservative). It or its by-products may remain in the food. Food Standard 4.5.1 lists the approved additives for the production of wine, sparkling wine and fortified wine.

Additives	Specification maximum
Ascorbic acid	GMP
Carbon dioxide	GMP
Citric acid	GMP
Erythorbic acid	GMP
Grape juice including concentrate grape juice	GMP
Grape skin extract	GMP
Gum Arabic	GMP
Lactic acid	GMP
Malic acid	GMP
Metatartaric acid	GMP
Mistelle ³	GMP
Potassium polyaspartate	100 mg/L
Potassium sorbate	See sorbic acid
Potassium sulphites	See sulphur dioxide
Sodium carboxymethylcellulose	GMP
Sorbic acid	200 mg/L
Sulphur dioxide:	
< 35 g/L sugars	250 mg/L
> 35 g/L sugars	300 mg/L
Tannins	GMP
Tartaric acid	GMP
Yeast mannoproteins	GMP

GMP = Good Manufacturing Practice as defined in Standard 1.1.2 of the [Food Standards Code](#).

³ Mistelle means grape must or grape juice prepared from fresh grapes to which grape spirit has been added to prevent fermentation and which has an ethanol content between 120 mL/L and 150 mL/L at 20°C.

Processing aids

Processing aids are substances used in the processing of raw materials, foods or ingredients, to fulfil a technological purpose relating to treatment or processing but does not perform a technological function in the final food. The substance is used in the course of manufacture of a food at the lowest level necessary to achieve a function in the processing of that food, irrespective of any maximum permitted level specified.

Clause 4 of Standard 4.5.1 lists the approved processing aids for the production of wine, sparkling wine and fortified wine.

Processing aid	Specification maximum	Processing aid	Specification maximum
Activated carbon	GMP	Hydrogen peroxide	GMP
Agar	GMP	Ion exchange resins	GMP
Alginates, calcium and potassium salts	GMP	Isinglass	GMP
Ammonium bisulphite	GMP	Lysozyme	GMP
Ammonium phosphates	GMP	Milk and milk products	GMP
Argon	GMP	Nitrogen	GMP
Bentonite	GMP	Oak	GMP
Calcium carbonate	GMP	Oxygen	GMP
Calcium tartrate	GMP	Pectins	GMP
Carbon dioxide	GMP	Perlite	GMP
Carrageenan	GMP	Phytates	GMP
Cellulose	GMP	Plant proteins permitted as processing aids under clause 3(a) to Standard 1.3.3 (which permits the use of foods, including water as processing aids)	GMP
Chitin-glucan	GMP	Polyvinyl pyrrolidone (PVPP)	GMP
Chitosan sourced from <i>Aspergillus niger</i>	GMP	Polyvinylimidazole-polyvinylpyrrolidone copolymers (PVI/PVP)	GMP
Collagen	GMP	Potassium carbonate	GMP
Copper sulphate	GMP	Potassium ferrocyanide ⁵	GMP
Cultures of micro-organisms ⁴	GMP	Potassium hydrogen carbonate	GMP
Cupric citrate	GMP	Potassium hydrogen tartrate	GMP
Diatomaceous earth	GMP	Silicon dioxide	GMP
Dimethyl dicarbonate	200 mg/L	Thiamin chloride ⁶	GMP
Dimethylpolysiloxane	GMP	Thiamin hydrochloride ⁵	GMP
Egg white	GMP		
Enzymes	GMP		
Gelatin	GMP		

⁴ Cultures of microorganisms means yeasts or bacteria (including yeast ghosts) used in wine manufacture with or without the addition of any one or more of thiamine hydrochloride, niacin, pyridoxine, pantothenic acid, biotin and inositol.

⁵ If potassium ferrocyanide has been used as a processing aid in the manufacture of a wine, sparkling wine or fortified wine, the final product must have residual iron present.

⁶ Thiamin chloride and thiamin hydrochloride may only be added to wine, sparkling wine and fortified wine to facilitate the growth of microorganisms.



Water additions

Wine, sparkling wine and fortified wine may only contain water that is:

- necessary to incorporate any additive or processing aid specified in Standard 4.5.1 (above), and or
- necessary to facilitate fermentation, or
- incidental to the winemaking process.

Where water is added for the purposes of incorporating processing aids and additives, or where the addition is incidental to the winemaking process, the wine, sparkling wine or fortified wine may not contain more than 70 mL/L water (7 per cent) as a result.

Where water is required to facilitate fermentation, *water may only be added to wine, sparkling wine and fortified wine if the water is added to dilute the high sugar grape must prior to fermentation and does not dilute the must below 13.5 degrees Bé.*

Wine must not contain more added water than is consistent with Good Manufacturing Practice.

Note that in some import markets it is not lawful to sell if water has been incorporated throughout the winemaking process to facilitate fermentation.

Read more about water additions [here](#).

Website resources

[Wine Australia](#)

[WALAS](#)

[Wine Australia Act 2013](#)

[Wine Australia Regulations 2018](#)

[Food Standards Code](#)

[Export Market Guides](#)

[Guide to Organic Export Requirements](#)

[Low Alcohol Labelling Guide](#)

[Carbon Neutral FAQs](#)

[Register of Protected Geographical Indications and Other Terms](#)

[Australian Wine Industry Fortified Wine Code of Practice](#)

[Wine Industry Display of Awards Code of Practice](#)

[Alcohol Beverages Advertising Code](#)

[Wine Packaging Guidelines](#)

[AWRI Code of Good Manufacturing Practice for the Australian Wine Industry](#)

Contacts

We're here to help

Fundamental to our regulatory approach is our desire to assist the wine community to meet legislated obligations. We are here to help you comply with regulatory requirements, including those relating to wine composition, packaging, export and market access.

You can contact us in several ways. If your enquiry relates to:

wine standards, labelling, blending rules, protected terms, LIP record keeping, market access	labels@wineaustralia.com
the export process, including licensing, product or label registration, the Label Directory, export permits or certificates	exports@wineaustralia.com
something not covered above	enquiries@wineaustralia.com
or phone us on	(08) 8228 2000

About Wine Australia

Wine Australia supports a competitive wine sector by investing in research, development and adoption (RDA), growing domestic and international markets, protecting the reputation of Australian wine and administering the Export and Regional Wine Support Package (ERWSP).

Wine Australia is an Australian Commonwealth Government statutory authority, established under the Wine Australia Act 2013, and funded by grape growers and winemakers through levies and user-pays charges and the Australian Government, which provides matching funding for RDA investments.

Notes

A series of horizontal dotted lines for taking notes.



Australian Government

Wine Australia

