



The fifth meeting of the APEC Wine Regulatory Forum (WRF) was held on November 11-13, 2015 in Adelaide, Australia. It was the third of six technical forums scheduled under the WRF multi-year project. Government officials and industry representatives from 17 economies participated¹. The WRF seeks to eliminate non-science based testing and certification requirements for wine trade in an effort to increase wine production, to expand trade, and to create jobs in the region.

The members of the WRF acknowledge the ongoing support and direction provided by the Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF), the APEC Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC), the Committee for Trade and Investment, the Ministers Responsible for Trade, and the APEC Economic Leaders.

Meeting Highlights

Recognizing the importance of links with both APEC and non-APEC forums, a joint session was held with the World Wine Trade Group (WWTG) and future cooperation with the WWTG was supported.

Members acknowledged the cooperative relationship between the WRF and the FSCF and the role that the groups play in furthering the work of the SCSC. Coordination between the two at the 2015 Good Regulatory Practices meeting in Cebu, Philippines and the FSCF's 2015 Pesticide MRL meeting were discussed and future coordination encouraged. It was noted that the WRF APEC Model Wine Certificate will serve as a useful tool for the broader efforts of the FSCF.

The importance of information exchange and cooperation was evident at the "economy roundtable," where participants discussed recent or imminent changes on wine regulation and emerging issues associated with wine trade across the region.

A key session examined risk management principles and their application to wine. A WWTG Industry Paper was presented detailing chemical characteristics that give wine very strong anti-microbial properties. These have led to wine being recognized and regulated as a low microbiological food safety risk consumer product in several economies. Regulators were encouraged to review the tests they require for wine imports in light of the paper.

¹Australia; Canada; Chile; China; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru, Philippines; Russia; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; United States; and Viet Nam. Argentina and South Africa participated as observers.

Members welcomed significant progress on the key WRF activities reported by the four public-private sector Working Groups established in 2013: (1) Working Group on Export Certificates, (2) Working Group on Compendia, (3) Working Group on Enhanced Risk Controls, and (4) Working Group on Pesticide Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs).

Outcomes and Next Steps

1. Members agreed to establish a new **Working Group on Good Regulatory Practices**. The group is consistent with the discussions related to good regulatory practices at the APEC Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) in Cebu in August 2015, the presentations on principles of good regulatory practice for wine at the 2012 and 2013 WRF meetings, and the aspirational and non-binding principles referred to as the WWTG [Tbilisi Statement](#).

The Working Group will consider next steps on the practical applications of the Tbilisi Statement principles, will consider developing a model wine standard, and will share information on naturally occurring components in wine, including metals. They will also consider the three papers circulated by the International Wine Technical Summit² (IWTS) which demonstrate practical applications of principles of good regulatory practice³.

2. Through the efforts of the **Working Group on Compendia**, APEC economy regulations relating to wine safety, wine labelling and export certification can be accessed by all APEC WRF economies through an on-line database, [FIVS-ABRIDGE](#)⁴. This Outcome realizes a goal of the first WRF meeting in San Francisco in 2011.

Members were trained, both individually and collectively, in how to use the database. Access to the database is granted to three regulators from each APEC economy. Economies are requested to provide the Project Overseer with appropriate contacts in order to disseminate user accounts as soon as possible. In order to guarantee access to the site, economies are required to update their economy information twice a year in July and December.

3. Members were briefed on the **Working Group on Export Certificates'** development of the APEC model wine certificate. The certificate is for the voluntary use by economies

² [International Wine Technical Summit](http://www.wineinstitute.org/node/861): <http://www.wineinstitute.org/node/861>: The International Wine Technical Summit (Summit) is a collaborative group of government and industry representatives who have an understanding of the technical issues surrounding wine production and trade.

³ Harmonizing Expression of Measurement Results in Wine Analysis: Testing for Total or Titratable Acidity (TA) of Wine
Harmonizing Reporting of Regulatory Limits in Wine Analysis via International Systems of Units
Laboratory Data Quality and Certificates of Analysis

⁴ [FIVS-Abridge](https://www.fivs-abridge.com): <https://www.fivs-abridge.com>

where certification is required. The certificate is intended to be used by economies as a model when consolidating their existing export certificates for wine trade between APEC economies. Economies may submit final comments on the model wine certificate by January 1, 2016. Members of the Working Group will seek SCSC and Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP) endorsement of the certificate and its instructions at SOM 1 in February 2016 in Peru. See Appendix.

The development of the model realizes a goal set out at the first WRF meeting in 2011 and responds to the following 2014 and 2015 APEC leadership statements:

"To increase wine production, to expand trade, and to create jobs in the region, we commit to eliminating unnecessary export certification for wine by 2018 and instruct officials to advance this work." **2014 Joint Ministerial Statement**

"We recall the Wine Regulatory Forum's goal to eliminate unnecessary export certifications by 2018 as a step towards reducing the cost of wine trade in the region and welcome its efforts to develop a consolidated APEC wine certificate." **2015 Ministers for Trade Statement**

"We note the work of the Wine Regulatory Forum, under the Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC), on the model wine export certificate as a means to streamline export certificate requirements. We instruct officials to explore other areas where similar trade facilitative initiatives may be applied." **2015 Joint Ministerial Statement**

4. The **Working Group on Pesticide MRLs** outlined its next steps in conjunction with the FSCF and on the program designed to reduce trade barriers arising from differing maximum residue limits across the APEC region. The WRF will play a key role in the implementation of the FSCF Import MRL Guideline for Pesticides.

The Working Group will test the application of the Guideline by selecting several priority compounds for which member economies will be asked to comment on whether they could establish MRLs based on the Guideline criteria. The Working Group will also consider how to improve the MRL Compendium.

5. The **Working Group on Enhanced Risk Controls** reported on the results of the initial round of ring testing. This testing is open to laboratories from all APEC economies and is designed to promote consistency and accuracy of analytical testing for key wine parameters. The problems involved with shipping commercial samples to laboratory participants was discussed and could provide the basis for future work.

Next steps for this working group include:

- Additional iterations of the ring test initiative via the [Interwinery Analysis Group](#)⁵. The Working Group Chair will coordinate with APEC Embassies in Canberra, Australia in an effort to facilitate the delivery of samples.
 - Populate the Methods Compendium using the template created by the IWTS.
 - A technical workshop on analytical method quality focusing on best practices in analytical testing for key wine parameters. Tbilisi Statement principles will be promoted in a manner that addresses the results that emerged from the ring test initiative.
6. Economies are encouraged to submit nominations for the new **Working Group on Good Regulatory Practices** as well as nominations to the pre-existing Working Groups to the WRF Project Overseer⁶ by January 1, 2016.
 7. Economies may provide final comments on the APEC model wine certificate to the Working Group⁷ by January 1, 2016. Endorsement of the model will be sought at the SCSC and SCCP meetings during SOM 1 in February 2016 in Peru.
 8. The United States will continue to lead quarterly WRF Regulator to Regulator conference calls. Participation in the calls is crucial to facilitate intersessional work. The next call will be held in December 2015.
 9. APEC economies were encouraged to consider attending the 2016 IWTS meeting to be held the week of May 23, 2016.
 10. Documents from the 2015 Adelaide meeting will be available via the [APEC WRF Website](#)⁸ and on the [APEC Meeting Document Database](#)⁹ by early December 2015.
 11. Members agreed to consider holding two meetings in 2016.
 - The 2016 WRF meeting will be held on the margins of the WWTG meeting in Ottawa, Canada in October 2016.
 - The Enhanced Risk Controls Working Group will consider options for a technical workshop.

The Project Overseers would like to offer special thanks to the Australian government and industry representatives for the significant work they did in organizing, hosting, and providing venues that helped achieve a successful 2015 meeting. November 2015.

⁵ <http://www.interwinery.com.au>

⁶ Jamie.Ferman@trade.gov

⁷ Comments should be sent to John.Lom@ttb.gov and Jamie.Ferman@trade.gov

⁸ <http://wineregulatoryforum.blogspot.com>

⁹ <http://mddb.apec.org>

APEC MODEL WINE CERTIFICATE INSTRUCTIONS

Various APEC economies currently require export certificates for wine trade between APEC economies. The APEC Model Wine Certificate is intended to be used by those economies to guide consolidation of such certificates, including authenticity/free sale, health/sanitation, and origin certificates. The ultimate objective of the model wine certificate is the reduction or elimination of export certificate requirements for wine trade across the APEC region. The model wine certificate is not to be used to impose requirements where none currently exist. Where APEC economies have a free trade, economic partnership, or other type of agreement, the agreed certification requirements for wine apply, and rules of origin are not affected.

GENERAL

- In blocks 1 through 6, provide all requested information, including exporter and importer/consignee names, addresses, and regulatory license, registration or permit numbers.
- In block 7, provide the name of the economy from which the shipment originated. Note: this may be different than the economy of origin, which is the economy in which the wine was produced and which may be defined by specific rules of origin.
- In block 8, provide the name and contact information of the agency that regulates wine in the exporting economy.
- In block 9, note that importers requesting preferential tariff rates under a free trade, economic partnership or other agreement between APEC economies are subject to the agreement's rules of origin.
- In block 10, provide the varietal or type, economy of origin, and alcohol by volume for each product. When applicable, provide the brand name, fanciful name, vintage date, and appellation.
- In block 11:
 - For commercially packaged products, list the bottle or container fill size in milliliters (ml), number of bottles per case, and the total number of cases. For example: "750ml, 12/case, 100 cases"
 - For bulk exports, list the bulk volume in Liters (L)
 - For product registration purposes, type "REGISTRATION."
 - When the quantity of a wine shipment is not required by the importing economy, place "N/A" or "not applicable."
- In block 12, include additional details when required by the regulatory authority of the importing and/or exporting economy, such as producer name, address and registration or permit numbers, Harmonized System Codes, port of entry, mode of transport, exporter signature or other mandatory information. Attach additional sheets if necessary to provide the information requested in block 12.
- In block 13, include additional requirements or limitations of the appropriate regulatory authority from the exporting APEC economy.
- Once the form is completed, it is submitted to the appropriate regulatory authority of the exporting economy. The regulatory authority will verify that the listed permit or registration number is valid and then will sign, date, and stamp the certificate in blocks 14 through 16 and return it to the exporter.