



**Asia-Pacific
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Outcomes of APEC Wine Regulatory Forum 2013

Submitted by: United States



**APEC Wine Regulatory Forum
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APEC Wine Regulatory Forum: 2013 Technical Workshop

The third meeting of the APEC Wine Regulatory Forum (WRF) was held on November 4-6, in Washington, DC. It was the first of five meetings to be held under the U.S. sponsored multi-year project which responds to the call by APEC Leaders for improved regulation and continues the work which began in San Francisco in 2011 and in Auckland in 2012. 14 of the 21 APEC Economies participated in technical discussions focused on a wide range of wine trade issues. The WRF held a joint meeting with the World Wine Trade Group (WWTG) on November 6 and APEC members were encouraged to consider closer engagement with the WWTG.

Outcomes and Next Steps

Participants identified the following key actions to be undertaken in 2014 in advance of the next meeting, which will likely be held in the spring of 2014 in China on the margins of a Senior Officials' Meeting:

- 1. Creation of Public-Private Electronic Working Groups:** Members identified the need for public-private working groups to advance the goals and activities of the WRF. The following electronic working groups will develop and manage specific APEC WRF activities: (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 Levels (MRLs). Members were encouraged to volunteer for electronic working groups by contacting the Project Overseers by January 1, 2014. The electronic working groups will communicate by email and conference call, and will report their progress to the Project Overseers on a three month basis. In addition, regulators agreed to continue the quarterly regulator conference calls, noting that the opportunity to talk to each other is important for information exchange.
- 2. Reduction in Export Certificates:** Members reiterated that certificates should only be required where necessary to manage identified risk, and advanced the goal to reduce the overall burden of export certificates required for wine shipments among APEC Members. Members noted the need to gather additional information to identify whether certificates can be eliminated, consolidated within Economies, consolidated across APEC by a model certificate, and accepted electronically. Building on

information previously collected through the APEC WRF Compendium on Certification Requirements, Members charged the Working Group on Export Certificates with conducting a study to propose how the burden of export certificates can be reduced across APEC Economies. Members were asked to provide the following information to the Working Group on Export Certificates by February 1, 2014: (1) what is the purpose behind the certificates your economy requires, and can any certificates be eliminated or consolidated, (2) what are the specific certification requirements, including required language, in your economy?, (3) do your economies' laws and regulations permit the submission of certificates by electronic means, such as email?, (4) do your economies' laws and regulations permit the submission of certificates by product, rather than by shipment? The Working Group on Export Certificates will distribute its study to Members in advance of the next meeting of the APEC WRF. Members were also encouraged to participate in the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF)'s Working Group on Electronic Certification.

- 3. APEC WRF Compendia:** Members agreed that the Compendia on Certification Requirements, Pesticide MRLs, Labeling Requirements, and Compositional Requirements, will improve the understanding of each other's requirements. Members instructed the Working Sub-Group on Compendia to complete the compendia, coordinate with the Project Overseers to identify websites for housing and updating the Compendia including building on existing resources, and develop a proposal for improving the Compendia for the use of all Members. To date 12 Members have submitted data to the four compendia. Members were asked to send their information or any updates to current data to the Working Group on Compendia by January 1, 2014, or as soon as possible thereafter. The Working Sub-Group on Compendia was asked to develop its proposal in advance of the next meeting of the APEC WRF.
- 4. Enhanced Risk Controls:** Members noted the importance of establishing risk assessment as the justification for regulatory intervention, and noted there may be a need for enhanced laboratory capabilities and technical exchanges to ensure that regulatory authorities have the capacity to assess risk and to use sound science in regulating wine. Members instructed the Working Group on Enhanced Risk Controls to distribute a survey on laboratory capacity building to Members by February 1, 2014. Based on the survey results, the Working Group on Enhanced Risk Controls will prepare a paper collecting current capacity building needs of Members and specifying how any technical needs can be addressed. The target for enhanced risk controls is for Members to utilize the functions provided by the Asia-Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) and to recognize and to utilize ISO 17025 (or equivalent) accredited laboratories for

possible acceptance of test results from accredited laboratories that are in line with APEC-endorsed Good Regulatory Practice principles. Members agreed that where capacity building activities are necessary they should build on existing opportunities in the APEC FSCF Partnership Training Institute Network and other relevant international bodies. Members further acknowledged that wine is a low risk product and any testing requirements should be risk-based, fit for purpose, and kept to a minimum so as to facilitate trade in the region.

- 5. Maximum Residue Limits:** Members agreed to continue dialogue on MRLs for agrochemicals with a view to facilitating trade and encouraging cooperation with relevant international bodies such as Codex and the WWTG. Led by the Working Group on Pesticide MRLs, Members should look to the WWTG and the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum's pilot project on MRLs for wine grapes to inform future work in this area.

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