

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations**



**World Health
Organization**

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - Fax: (+39) 06 5705 4593 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.net

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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COMMUNICATION FROM OIV¹

On the day after the 9th General Assembly of the International Organisation of Vine and Wine which was held in Porto from 20 to 24 June and the day before welcoming the Organisation's 45th Member State, namely the Republic of India, the OIV is keen to demonstrate its interest in the works of the Codex and the need for our two organisations to coordinate and cooperate in fields of common interest.

The International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV) which has held Observer status with the Codex for many years, is defined as an intergovernmental organisation of a scientific and technical nature with recognised expertise in the fields of vines, wine and wine-based beverages, table grapes and raisins and other vine-based products.

The Organisation's missions have been modernised and adapted to enable it to pursue its objectives and in particular to:

- a) Inform its members of measures whereby the concerns of producers, consumers and other parties in the vitivincultural sector may be taken into consideration;
- b) Assist other international organisations both intergovernmental and non-governmental, especially those which carry out standardisation activities;
- c) contribute to the international standardisation of existing practices and standards and, as necessary, to the preparation of new international standards in order to improve the conditions for producing and marketing vitivincultural products, and ensure that consumers' interests are taken into account.

The OIV could be considered as a vertical committee of the Codex, responsible for vines and vine based products. To this end, it defines products, sets recommended limits in terms of additives and contaminants, determines the methods of analysis for musts and wine and spirituous beverages of vitivincultural origin, advises on labelling standards and prepares a whole range of recommendations in the interest of both producers and consumers.

¹ Document prepared by and under the responsibility of the OIV

Since the decision taken by the Codex Alimentarius Commission in 1976 not to develop standards on wine, the relationship between our two organisations has always produced results and I can only be delighted with this. There are many cross references.

Works in connection with the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food

The OIV was involved in the work conducted by the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food as an observer.

The collaboration between the Codex and the OIV recently became a reality when the Codex Alimentarius Commission adopted the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Ochratoxin A Contamination in Wine. In accordance with the guidelines for cooperation between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and international intergovernmental organisations for the drafting of standards and related texts adopted by the Codex Commission during its 28th session in July 2005, this project had been developed based on the “Code of good vitivincicultural practices in order to minimise the presence of Ochratoxin A in vine-based products”, adopted by OIV Member States.

Today, the OIV continues its active participation in the works of the Codex Committee on Contaminants with the revision of certain limits and in particular that of lead in wines.

The Codex adopted a limit in wines set at 0.200 mg/L in accordance with the proposals made, at the time, by the OIV. In 2006, OIV Member States lowered this limit to 0.150 mg/L in wines. It would therefore be appropriate to be able to adjust international standards in this area.

The OIV has already declared its interest in participating in the Codex’s electronic working group on the revision of lead limits launched during the 5th session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food.

Works in connection with the Codex Committee on Food Additives

The OIV also plays an equally active part in the work by the Codex Committee on Food Additives, especially during discussions concerning provisions relating to food additives in the Codex General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA), in particular for the “grape wine” category and its sub-categories.

A few years ago, the OIV was one of the principal organisations involved in the review of the foods category system by asking in particular for the “grape wines” category to be differentiated from the “Wines other than grape” category.

Today, the OIV wants to continue its active involvement in the works by the Codex Committee on Food Additives, especially those regarding provisions relating to food additives in the Codex General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) for the “grape wine” category and its sub-categories.

The OIV has already declared its interest in participating in the electronic working group on identifying food categories for which the use of “acidity regulators” or “emulsifiers, stabilisers and thickeners” is technologically justified.

The OIV will also work with the committee by providing specific additional information on food additives for the “grape wine” category.

Works in connection with the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

The OIV was involved in the work conducted by the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables as an observer.

The collaboration between the Codex and the OIV recently became a reality with a scientific contribution during the finalisation of the Codex standard for table grapes and more particularly the sections relating to the maturity and minimum weights for bunches.

In 2008, OIV Member States adopted by consensus a standard on the minimum maturity requirements for table grapes (VITI 1-2008).

Today, the OIV wants to continue its active participation in the work of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables and in particular that targeting certain provisions in the Codex standard for table grapes.

Furthermore, the OIV's work on a specific standard for raisins may also constitute, when adopted, a scientific and technical contribution to the Codex Committee's works.

In addition, several standards and principles laid down by the Codex Alimentarius have been taken into consideration when drafting specific standards for the vitivinicultural sector. These include, in particular:

- The role of science in developing standards
- The principles established by the Committee on food import and export inspection and certification systems adopted by the Commission, in developing the OIV draft resolution regarding the traceability guidelines in the vitivinicultural sector.
- The principles and definitions established by the Codex Alimentarius on biotechnologies which were taken into account when drafting certain definitions specific to the vine and wine sector with regards biotechnologies.

This demonstrates the interest that the OIV has in the Codex's works as well as the need for our two organisations to coordinate and cooperate in fields of common interest.

Nowadays, as international standards have become increasingly important through the mechanisms established by the World Trade Organisation, relations between the Codex Alimentarius and the vine and wine sector represented by the OIV should be strengthened. Grape-based beverages are an integral part of foodstuffs and constitute an increasing share of international trade.

In the world today, almost 40% of wine is consumed outside its country of production and for many countries; trade in vitivinicultural products represents a significant part of their exports in terms of value.

Furthermore, in connection with the FAO, the OIV and its member countries would like to develop programmes linked to the nutritional benefits of table grape and raisin viticulture, especially for developing countries.



45 Member States of the OIV



In black: Member states / *in red: in fieri states*

Vision

To be the world scientific and technical reference organisation on vine and wine.

Mission

In full accordance with the missions referred to at Article 2.2 of the Agreement of 3 April 2001 and in order to achieve its vision, the OIV will foster an environment that is conducive to scientific and technical innovation, the dissemination of the results thereof and the development of the international vitivincultural sector. It will promote, through its recommendations, international standards and guidelines, harmonisation and the sharing of information, and sound science-based knowledge, in order to enhance productivity, product safety and quality and the conditions for producing and marketing vine and wine products.



Organisation chart for the Scientific and Technical Committee

