



CAC/35 INF/5/REV

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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COMMUNICATION FROM OIV¹

The International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV) appreciates the opportunity to provide a summary of current work undertaken by ISO that may be of interest to the CAC. The OIV is keen to demonstrate its interest in the work 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) is an intergovernmental organisation with 45 Member-States and which has held Observer status with the Codex for many years. The OIV 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 vitivinicultural 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 vitivinicultural 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

¹ Document prepared by and under the responsibility of the OIV

OIV Member-States : Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Luxemburg, FYR Macedonia, Malta, Moldavia, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Uruguay

vitivinicultural origin, advises on labelling standards and prepares a whole range of recommendations in the interest of both producers and consumers.

Since the decision taken by the Codex Alimentarius Commission in 1974 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.

Work 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.

Recently, the collaboration between the Codex and the OIV became a reality when the Codex Alimentarius Commission adopted the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Ochratoxin A Contamination in Wine on the basis of the Code adopted by OIV Member-States.

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

As the OIV has already mentioned last year, 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.

Work in connection with the Codex Committee on Food Additives

In agreement with its missions, the OIV contributes to the elaboration of new international standards in order to improve the conditions for producing vitivinicultural products.

In this framework, the Member-States of the OIV adopt new oenological practices including the adoption of food additives in the wine making process.

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.

At the last session of the CCFA, the representative of the OIV has pointed out the scientific expertise of the OIV and recalled, for additives evaluated, the decisions taken by the Member-States of the OIV in order to allow coherence between international standards.

Today, the OIV wants to continue its active involvement in the work 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.

In these circumstances, it should be envisaged that for category "Grape wines" and its sub categories, the OIV could provide its expertise to the CCFA. In fact the OIV and his 45 Member-States have already adopted various additives or processing aids for the wine making process. All of

them are recognised by the wine producing countries and accepted by the consumer countries which are members to the OIV. Some of these additives that are not yet introduced or evaluated by the CCFA in the GSFA for grape wine category could be submit to the CCFA by the OIV.

The OIV is also available to appraise the technological need for additives that are not yet recognized by the OIV.

The OIV has already declared its interest in participating in the electronic working group on the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) to: i) implement a horizontal approach to provisions in Tables 1 and 2 for food additives listed in Table 3 with “acidity regulators” function; ii) further elaborate the horizontal approach for food additives listed in Table 3 with “emulsifiers, stabilizers, thickeners” function

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

Work in connection with the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis

One of important task of the OIV is the development of analytical methods, definition of standards for sampling and quality control in laboratories for wine products.

This applies of course wines but also other products such as vinegar. We would like to remind that the OIV methods for vinegars are referenced by the Codex Committee on Methods of Anaysis.

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

OIV also attaches considerable importance to unfermented viticultural products such as table grapes and raisins

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

The adoption of this standard allowed to the OIV, to collaborate actively with Codex Committee on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables especially during the finalisation of the Codex standard for table grapes and more particularly the sections relating to the maturity and minimum weights for bunches.

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 work.

Finally, it is important to mention that the OIV maintains a close and active collaboration with FAO and especially with the statistics department to develop global statistics of the wine sector regarding the surfaces, production, consumption and import and export of wine products.

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

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- 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 work 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.



MEMBERS: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, France, FYROM, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, **India**, Israel, Italy, Ireland, Lebanon, Luxemburg, Malta, Morocco, Moldavia, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Uruguay

OBSERVERS: *Tunisia, Ukraine, Municipality of Yantai (China); Ningxia Hui Autonomous region (China)*

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.