



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 OIV that may be of interest to the Codex Alimentarius Commission. 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) is an intergovernmental organisation with 46 Member-States producers and consumers of wines representing 85% of world production and almost 80% of world wine consumption respectively..

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.

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

In the context of this globalisation of trade, where there is increasing competition between countries, the OIV defines the characteristics of vitivinicultural products and their specifications, and contributes to the promotion of good regulatory practices in order to ensure fair trade, as well as the integrity and sustainability of different viticultural products on the global market. The OIV contributes to the harmonisation and definition of new international standards in order to improve conditions for producing and marketing vitivinicultural products.

At the 15th General Assembly in Sofia (Bulgaria), new oenological practices were adopted as well as several specifications and methods of analysis.

¹ Document prepared by and under the responsibility of the OIV.

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

The table below summarizes the 22 resolutions adopted at this General Assembly.

Ref. Resolution	Title
OIV-VITI 564A-2017	OIV process for the clonal selection of vines
OIV-VITI 539-2017	OIV guidelines for recognising grapevine collections
OIV-OENO 576A-2017	Monograph of Saccharomyces yeasts
OIV-OENO 576B-2017	Monograph of non-Saccharomyces yeasts
OIV-OENO 580-2017	Treatment with potassium carbonate in musts
OIV-OENO 582-2017	Use of selective vegetal fibres in wine
OIV-OENO 583-2017	Treatment of musts with calcium sulphate for liqueur wines
OIV-OENO 532-2017	Treatment of musts using inactivated yeasts with guaranteed glutathione levels
OIV-OENO 533-2017	Treatment of wine using inactivated yeasts with guaranteed glutathione levels
OIV-OENO 574-2017	Monograph on tannins – update of the method for determination of Polyphenols
OIV-OENO 571-2017	Monograph on glutathione
OIV-OENO 572-2017	Monograph on potassium polyaspartate
OIV-OENO 578-2017	Monograph on selective plant fibres
OIV-OENO 605-2017	Iron limit in the OIV monographs on PVI/PVP
OIV-ECO 568-2017	Recommendations for establishment of training programme for sommeliers
OIV-ECO 501-2017	Application of sustainable production principles as defined by the resolution CST 518-2016 in the production of distillates, spirits and spirituous beverages of vitivinicultural origin

The OIV ensures a balance between traditional winemaking and innovation

The international trade of grapes, wine and spirituous beverages continues to grow. The share of export volumes of wine has developed significantly over the past decade: at over 100 million hectolitres, it is equivalent to 43% of world consumption, compared with 25% 10 years ago. Every two bottles out of five consumed in the world are imported.

Works in connection with the Codex Committee on Food Additives

For the OIV, oenological practices and processes meet two concerns

- To take into account the safety of the consumer. The work of the OIV in this area is based in particular on the safety assessments of food additives of the Joint FAO / WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA). But also
- To guarantee the identity and authenticity of wine in a long-term vision. Wine is a food that is anything but banal, it is a product that has several thousand years in existence, been inextricably linked with the history of humanity

So, it is important for the OIV that the Codex General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) includes commonly used wine additives to meet the objectives above-mentioned such as preserving the natural and essential characteristics of wine, a substantial change in the composition of the wine and to avoid any technical barriers to trade.

Therefore, during the last session of the CCFA, it was noted that the justification of the limits for the use of food additives in the grape wine category was not only about safety, but also about the preservation of characteristics of the product, Good Manufacturing Practices should refer to a note clearly indicating that the use of these additives should be consistent with the OIV recommendations

At the end of the last session of the Committee on additives, a number of delegations expressed regret for not having found a solution to advance work on the food additive provisions for grape wine. It was mentioned that it was important to highlight the fact that the current set of adopted food additive provisions for wine in the GSFA was still incomplete in order to prevent possible impediments in the international trade. The importance of having comprehensive and harmonised international practices and standards for wine was also highlighted.

The Director General of the International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV) regretted that agreement had not been reached on the issue of additives in wine. He pointed out that the OIV was developing a whole set of standards for world wine production, and that OIV was the only intergovernmental organisation that currently fulfilled this function, which justified its being recognised as reference organisation at the Codex level. The OIV would continue to fulfil its mission and was committed, as it already does, to systematically take into account the JECFA assessments or, when they do not exist, those of other recognised food safety agencies. Similarly, the OIV would continue to work with full confidence and collaboration with the Codex Secretariat.

It has also been noted that OIV was currently the only international intergovernmental organisation with a public, comprehensive and international standard for wine and almost all internationally traded wine was produced according rules setting numerical value for the maximum level of additives.

The OIV recalls that

- ✓ OIV is an **intergovernmental organisation of a scientific and technical nature** of recognised competence for its work concerning vines, wine, wine-based beverages, grapes, raisins and other vine products.”
- ✓ the recommendations adopted by the OIV Members-states are **based on scientific evidence** resulting from the work of a thousand or so **experts appointed by Member States**, who meet regularly as part of the OIV’s specialised scientific structures in viticulture, oenology, methods of analysis, economy, law, safety, health and grapes.
- ✓ Any international non-governmental organisation or stakeholders with an interest in vines, wine, table grapes, raisins and/or products of same, with an OIV **Observers** status², **can participate and intervene** in the works of the Commissions, Sub-Commissions and groups of experts. It is the case, for example, for FIVS and Oenoppia who participate actively to the works of the OIV.
- ✓ The technical **decisions are taken by consensus** of the OIV Members-states, according to an **8-steps procedure comparable to the Codex Alimentarius**, give to the OIV a **technical and scientific references** accepted by its Member States as well as a **transparent functioning**.
- ✓ The OIV makes its publications, standards, congress proceedings and overview of collective expertise **freely and publicly available**
- ✓ All OIV recommendations are either **frequently included in national and regional regulations** or used as **reference** in the **bilateral, multilateral agreements**³⁴⁵
- ✓ OIV has the **same principles of membership** that form the basis of membership in the Codex Alimentarius Commission **and equivalent principles of standards-setting**⁶

Good wine making practices is the basis of our work. In some cases it is necessary to set numerical limits which are based on technical or scientific evidence. The OIV is currently revising some limits taking into account the technological need (i.e. climate change).

² OIV Observers: *AIDV* - International Wine Law Association, *Amorim Academy*, *AREV* - Assembly of Wine-Producing European Regions, *AUIV* - International University Association of Wine, *CERVIM* - Centre for Research, Environmental Sustainability and Advancement of Mountain Viticulture, *FIVS* - International Federation of Wines and Spirits, *OENOPPIA* - Oenological Products and Practices International Association, *UIOE* - Union Internationale des Œnologues, *VINOFED* - World Federation of Major International Wine and Spirits Competitions, *ASI* - Association de la Sommellerie Internationale, *WIM* - Wine in Moderation

³ Bilateral Wine Agreement UE/South Africa <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:028:0003:0087:en:PDF>

⁴ Bilateral Wine Agreement UE/Australia http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2002.028.01.0004.01.ENG

⁵ Reglamento vitivinícola del mercosur MERCOSUR/GMC/RES N° 45/96 http://www.mercosur.int/msweb/Normas/normas_web/Resoluciones/ES/Res_045_096_.PDF

⁶ 24th Codex Alimentarius Procedural Manual (2015) pp 217

Today, the OIV wants to continue its active involvement in the work of the Codex Committee on Food Additives, especially after the suspension of the works on wine grape category, the OIV wishes, on the basis of the works of the electronic working group, that its role be formalized as quickly as possible.

OIV Works in the field of 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 Analysis.

During the last OIV General Assembly, several analytical methods have been adopted by the Member States of the OIV in particular

Ref. Resolution	Title
OIV-OENO 587-2017	Introduction of the definition of apparent alcoholic strength - revision of method OIV-MA-BS-01
OIV-OENO 588-2017	Introduction of the principle of Obscuration : revision of method OIV-MA-BS-01
OIV-OENO 589-2017	Method of determination of 1,2-propanediol and 2,3-butanediol
OIV-OENO 479-2017	Determination of the 13c/12c isotope ratios of glucose, fructose, glycerol and ethanol in products of vitivincultural origin by high-performance liquid chromatography coupled to isotope ratio mass spectrometry
OIV-OENO 529-2017	Detection of chitinase and thaumatin-like proteins in white wines
OIV-OENO 590-2017	Determination of ethyl carbamate: revision of method OIV-MA-BS-25

Works of other Codex Committees

In this context and in the framework of the cooperation between the Codex Alimentarius and the OIV, the OIV follows the works of other Codex Committee for example

- ***Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables,***
- ***Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables and***
- ***Codex Committee on Contaminant.***

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.

Nowadays, as international standards have become increasingly important through the mechanisms established by the World Trade Organisation, relationships between the Codex Alimentarius and the OIV in the field of vine and wine in particular should be consolidated.