

# 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 - E-mail: [codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org) - [www.codexalimentarius.org](http://www.codexalimentarius.org)

**CAC47/CRD28**

**Original Language Only**

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

#### Forty-seventh Session

Geneva, Switzerland, CIG

25-30 November 2024

#### COMMENTS OF OIV

#### OIV

#### COMMUNICATION OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE OIV, M John Barker

#### Item 16 of the Agenda

The OIV is an international 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. It was established in 1924 as the first intergovernmental organisation dedicated to a specific food and beverage category.

In 2001, the OIV Member States agreed to renew its founding arrangement through the *Agreement Establishing the International Organisation of Vine and Wine*. This Agreement reinforced the strictly scientific and technical mandate of the OIV and introduced a requirement that all scientific and technical decisions are made by consensus of all member countries.

Today, with the acceptance of the membership request of the People's Republic of China on 14 November 2024, the OIV comprises 51 Member States representing 85% of the global vineyard surface area, 77% of global table grape production, 62% of global dried grape production, 90% of global wine production and 75% of global wine consumption.

It is important to recognise that grapes, wine, juices and other related products are an important element of global food trade. Since the beginning of the century, the export market for these products has experienced remarkable growth. Global exports of fresh table grapes have risen by 74% since 2000, reaching a value of 9.3 billion USD. Similarly, dried grapes exports have grown by 56%, now valued at 1.5 billion USD. Wine exports have seen an increase of 67%, climbing to 39.9 billion USD. Global exports of grape juice have expanded by 28%, now standing at 0.8 billion USD.

The OIV has a longstanding relationship with Codex Alimentarius, having participated in the first session the Codex Alimentarius Commission in Rome in 1963. The OIV is a cooperating international intergovernmental organization which applies the same principles as those of the Codex Alimentarius Commission with regard to accession and equivalent principles of standardization.

As an IGO Observer to Codex Alimentarius, the OIV is proud to contribute to its important works. We see the work of the OIV as being highly complementary to that of Codex, offering objective and science-based recommendations for all food products derived from grapes based on the consensus of 51 countries using the 8-step process.

The OIV systematically takes into account Codex Standards in its own work and uses JECFA evaluations in its recommendations regarding additives and processing aids for use in production of vitivicultural products.

Over the years, the OIV has contributed to many aspects of the works of Codex Alimentarius, and is acknowledged in several places. To give a few examples across the spectrum of Codex works:

- in relation to food additives, the definition of grape wine in 14.2.3 of the GSFA references the OIV definition of wine in its International Code of Oenological Practices;
- in relation to health and safety, the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Ochratoxin A Contamination in Wine (CXC 63-2007) was developed on the basis of an equivalent Code of Practice approved by the OIV;
- in relation to product standards, OIV recommendations have been incorporated into the Standard for Table Grapes (CXS 255-2007).

Recently, the OIV has been a key contributor to discussions regarding the addition of food additives to 14.2.3 of the GSFA. Note 517 to the GSFA recognises that Codex Members may further specify the use of certain food additives for use in winemaking to be consistent with the OIV Code of Oenological Practices.

The importance of the relationship between the OIV and Codex was recognised by the Ministers of 37 OIV Member countries in their Ministerial Declaration of 13 October 2024.<sup>1</sup> Ministers acknowledged the unique situation involving use of wine additives which gave rise to Note 517 and reaffirmed the OIV's objectives to assist other international organisations and contribute to the harmonisation of existing practices and standards.

On the occasion of the OIV's centenary, the OIV wishes to convey its firm commitment to continuing and building our relationship with Codex Alimentarius. The OIV shares key values and objectives with Codex Alimentarius, including the importance of protecting consumers through science-based standards, and the need to build relationships across international organisations to promote an integrated approach to global challenges.

The OIV acknowledges and respects the works of Codex Alimentarius in its own works, and it undertakes to continue to contribute its special expertise in wine, table grapes, raisins, juices and other products of the grapevine to the works of Codex Alimentarius. We look forward to a long and fruitful collaboration in the future.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://agriculture.gouv.fr/37-pays-adoptent-une-declaration-commune-pour-renouveler-leur-engagement-aupres-de-la-filiere-viti>