

2011/SOM3/SCSC/SEM/005 Session 1, Part B

Regulation of Chinese Wine Imports

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Seminar on Key Issues in Wine Regulation San Francisco, United States 18–19 September 2011

Summary

In recent years, Chinese wine imports have been increasing rapidly. From 2007 to 2010, the total volume of wine imports came from 148 million liters to 286 million liters. In terms of value, it reached 800 million USD in 2010. Chinese wine market is highly open, we import wine from more than 60 countries and regions. According to Chinese Food Safety Law, AQSIQ is responsible for the safety supervision on imported and exported food. AQSIQ has established inspection and quarantine authorities (CIQ) in every port of China. There are more than 6000 staff working in import and export food safety area. Within CIQ system, we have 163 food testing labs and more than 1000 technicians. Most of the labs are equipped with advanced machines and capable of performing wine test according to relevant Chinese standards. When a consignment of wine arrives at the port of entry, the importer or his agent must first declare to CIQ with relevant commercial documents, certificate of origin and Chinese label specimen. CIQ staff will conduct document checking, on-site inspection, sensory test, label inspection and if necessary, lab test to check if the wine is in compliance with Chinese standards. Wine that meets all requirements will be released and a health certificate will be issued so that it can enter into circulation. Substandard wine will be destroyed or returned except for labeling issues. In that case, the importer must take corrective actions. Over the past years, the most frequent problem we found in imported wine is labeling problems, accounted for more than 95% of all problems. Safety issues are of less concern. Currently, the average consumption of wine in China is well below 1L/capita, there is still big market potential for imported wine.























