Would You like an Export Certificate with Your Wine?

Submitted by: United States
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Best Practices in Export Certification

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Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS)

• A substantial part of the worldwide trade in food depends on the use of inspection and certification systems

• In 1991, Codex undertook the development of guidance documents on food import and export inspection and certification systems
Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS)

- Official inspection and certification systems are a fundamentally important means of food control

- However, they can also significantly impede international trade in foodstuffs

PRINCIPLES FOR FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION CAC/GL 20 1995

“In the choice of inspection and certification systems, there should be regard to costs to consumers and to the costs in money and time to the affected food industry and government consulting with interested bodies as appropriate. Such systems should be no more restrictive of trade than is necessary in order to achieve the required level of protection.”
GUIDELINES FOR DESIGN, PRODUCTION, ISSUANCE AND USE OFFICIAL CERTIFICATES CAC/GL 38-2001

These guidelines are not intended to encourage the use of official certificates for trade in food or to diminish the role of commercial certificates, including third party certificates, that are not issued by, or with the authority of, the government of the exporting economy.
Guidelines for Food Import Control Systems CAC/GL 47 2003

- A regional economic grouping may rely on import controls implemented by another economy.

- In such cases, the functions, responsibilities and operating procedures undertaken by the economy which conducts the imported food control should be clearly defined and accessible to authorities in the economy or countries of final destination.

APEC Export Certificate Roundtable, February 2010

Participants reached the following conclusions:

- Certificates are only one of several tools to provide assurances to the importing county regarding the effectiveness of the system of the exporting economy.
• Where a certificate is required the certificate should simplify and expedite border clearance

• Keep certificates simple avoid redundancy in certificates

• Refer to guidance provided in principles A and B of Codex Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Generic Official Certificates (CAC/GL 38-2001)

• Official certificates should be required only where attestations and essential information is necessary to ensure food safety or fair practices in food trade

• Exporting economies may provide assurances through means other than consignment-by-consignment certificates as appropriate

• Export certificate requirements should be grounded on risk-based decisions

• Attestations should be appropriate for the product for which the certificate is required
• APEC Member Economies should, where possible, use experience, knowledge and confidence to reduce the need for certificates

• APEC Member Economies should employ standard formats whenever possible-use, e.g. utilizing Codex guidance

• There is great value in enhancing the use of electronic certification in the region

Next Steps from the Roundtable

• Encourage the use of electronic certification in the APEC region

• A review by APEC economies of their certification requirements for food

• Propose CCFICS consider new work on attestations in the generic model certificate guidance

• Enhance relationships between the exporting and importing economies to better understand our mutual needs assurances and how they can best be met

• Potential for technical assistance
APEC Export Certificate Workshop, Washington, DC, November 2011

- Follow up to the 2010 Roundtable
- Focus on the Next Steps
- Wine Regulators are invited

CCFICS Texts

- CAC/GL 19 1995
- CAC/GL 20 1995
- CAC/GL 25 1997
- CAC/GL 26 1997
- CAC/GL 34 1999
- CAC/GL 38 2001
- CAC/GL 47 2003
- CAC/GL 52 2003
- CAC/GL 60 2006
Thank You