



APEC Wine Regulatory Forum

May 11-12, 2017 ♦ Ha Noi, Viet Nam

2017 Ha Noi Technical Meeting Statement and Next Steps "Building Relationships to Promote Technical Cooperation"

The seventh meeting of the [APEC Wine Regulatory Forum](#) (WRF), was held on May 11-12, 2017 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam.¹ Government officials and wine sector representatives from 19 APEC economies participated in the 2017 meeting: Australia, Canada, Chile, the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, China, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, United States and Viet Nam.

1. The Project Overseers recognize the support and direction provided by the APEC Subcommittee on Standards and Conformance Secretariat and commend Viet Nam as the 2017 APEC host. Special thanks to the National Institute of Food Control for the informative and very useful tour.
2. Members acknowledged the body of work undertaken by the Forum since its inception in 2011 and supported continuing key work streams once the multi-year project ends in 2018.
3. Economies shared information relating to their traceability systems for wine and reported on recent recalls of imported wine during the first Economy Roundtable. It was noted there were very few recalls of imported wine in APEC economies and the majority related to product packaging² and not the wine. No amount of certificates can help to avoid the packaging problems which led to the recalls. Economies described a range of traceability systems for wine including the use of QR codes, certificates,

¹ The Ha Noi meeting was the fifth of six annual technical conferences scheduled under the WRF multi-year project entitled "*Good Regulatory Practices Action Plan*" co-sponsored by Australia, Canada, Chile, Chinese Taipei, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Russia, United States and Viet Nam (M CTI 01 2013A) and the seventh WRF since its inception. WRF meetings were held prior to the multiyear project in (Washington, 2011 (San Francisco and Livermore, CA USA) and 2012 (Auckland, NZ).

² One economy noted recalls related to non-compliant materials which are in contact with wine.

production codes, and bar codes. Future work in this area should be considered to ensure that traceability systems do not create new barriers to trade.

4. The session on Winemaking Education focused on typical faults encountered during the winemaking process with the conclusion that none of those typical faults have health and safety implications for consumers.
5. The 2017 meeting of the Codex Alimentarius Committee on Food Additives was discussed and economies were encouraged to work collaboratively to maintain the integrity of the science-based Codex system. It was also suggested economies note the list of wine additives in the General Standard for Food Additives is currently incomplete and consider formally approving commonly used winemaking additives that have been evaluated for safety and approved for use by other economies.
6. A database for additives and processing aids allowed for use in wine production (FIVS-APACE³) was presented. This was seen as a useful tool to inform economies of essential substances allowed for use in the winemaking process, their technical justification, and food safety risk evaluations. APEC economies were provided access to the new system.
7. Access to FIVS-Abridge⁴, a database of international wine regulations, was also discussed and economies were reminded to provide notice of changes in their respective wine regulations to FIVS-Abridge in exchange for no-cost access to the system. Under the APEC WRF-FIVS-Abridge contract, access to the database is contingent on economies providing regular updates.
8. The microbiological properties of wine⁵ were discussed and its inherently safe nature as a low risk product was shown to be central to the WRF's work on regulatory frameworks (e.g. expiration date labeling, certificates of analysis, microbiological specifications, and traceability.)
9. The March 2017 version of the "Guide to the Development of Wine Standards that align with widely accepted International Regulatory Practice" was discussed. A further revision incorporating comments received will be circulated shortly and economies were asked to review this, in anticipation of noting the finalized guide as an APEC WRF reference document at the next meeting.
10. Outcomes from the 2017 Australian self-funded APEC project on pesticide MRLs were discussed and the WRF was advised of the next steps to 'road-test' the guideline on harmonization of MRLs developed by that project. The WRF was commended for

³<http://www.fivs-apace.org>

⁴<http://fivs-abridge.com>

⁵https://www.bio-conferences.org/articles/bioconf/pdf/2016/02/bioconf-oiv2016_04003.pdf

beginning work in this area which has become a significant focus of the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF).

11. Members toured the National Institute for Food Control (NIFC) in Ha Noi. This was the first WRF tour of a laboratory in Asia. The lab was well equipped and professionally run. It was noted the lab tests a range of foods including wine. NIFC is a member of the APEC WRF Ring Test and it was interesting to learn that the NIFC also leads its own proficiency testing following ISO 17043 on a national basis. Following the tour, a presentation highlighted the growing domestic wine industry in Viet Nam, the growing role of imports to meet domestic demand, and specifics regarding wine regulations and the inspection of imports.
12. Results from post-Ottawa WRF rounds of the Ring Test were discussed. Early results show international laboratories have improved their comparative performance in the area of wine testing, however in some cases these are still performing below the levels demonstrated in major wine industry-specific ring testing programs. Significant issues also continue to exist with the movement of samples for analytical testing into some economies, hindering the development of the comparative program. A series of virtual workshop meetings is planned for the coming year to address best practice methodologies. Economies that are not participating in the WRF Ring Test can nominate 2 labs per economy by August 1, 2017.
13. A second Economy Roundtable focusing on accreditation of wine laboratories within the APEC region revealed that the majority of economies responded in the affirmative to questions regarding accreditation (in many cases to the ISO 17025 standard) and most also referred to regulated versions of test methods in their economy. In that regard, the importance should be noted of ensuring that regulated test methods are validated before performance by any particular laboratory as discussed in the Ring Test session by Dr. Eric Wilkes. Members who gave verbal comments during this second roundtable are requested to send summaries of their comments to Jamie.Ferman@trade.gov by August 1, 2017.
14. The NIFC presented on its laboratory quality management system, including its use of control charts to ensure consistent performance of methods of analysis. Previous discussions within the WRF have emphasized that laboratories using control charts have greater confidence in the precision and accuracy of their results.
15. The Methods of Analysis Compendium was presented and economies were thanked for their contributions to the document which will allow economies to readily determine what analytical methodologies are being used to determine if a wine is compliant with regulations in a given market. The completed Compendium will be added to the FIVS-Abridge database. Economies that have regulated methods are requested to provide information for the Methods of Analysis Compendium by August 1, 2017.

16. A new project reviewing economy requirements for certificates of analysis was initiated and a paper to be presented at the 2017 International Wine Technical Summit⁶ was previewed. A list of analyses commonly required to be included in certificates of analysis by wine importing markets was reviewed in light of any potential health and safety justification. It was noted that few of the analyses are justified from a public health and safety point of view. Economies that have not submitted responses to the Certificates of Analysis questionnaire sent out on April 28 are requested to do so by August 1, 2017.
17. The topic of substances commonly found in wine (including metals) was discussed and a framework for a database to collate the typical values for these in wine and the relevant references was presented. It was suggested that as a next step the Working Group on Enhanced Risk Controls continue to populate the document with relevant information and it be centrally curated as an open reference for participating economies.
18. Export certificates were discussed in detail including from an industry perspective. The FSCF presented on its ongoing work to streamline export certificate requirements across processed food commodities⁷. Chile announced that they will replace existing export certificates for wine from Chile with the APEC Model Wine Certificate and called on other economies to self-initiate the use of the Certificate where applicable. Chile's proposal for WRF language in the Ministers Responsible for Trade Statement calling for implementation of the Model Wine Certificate was also shared with members.
19. Nominations for membership in any of the five WRF Working Groups (particularly to those working groups in which an economy is not currently represented) are requested by August 1, 2017.
20. Presentations and other related documents from the 2017 Ha Noi Meeting will remain available via the APEC WRF website and APEC Meeting Document Database.
21. Members are requested to complete the post-event WRF Ha Noi survey by August 1, 2017.
22. The 2018 meeting information will be circulated once the meeting location and date are confirmed.

⁶ <http://www.iwts.org>

⁷ <http://fscf-ptin.apec.org/docs/events/2017/export-certificate-workshop/Export-Certificate-Brochure-May-2017.pdf>

Working Group 2017 Action Items

Compendia

1. The Working Group will receive submissions from economies in connection with the new Certificates of Analysis project and collate them into a compendium before passing this to the Working Group on Export Certificates for its review. The Working Group will also consider with FIVS-Abridge the most appropriate format for this information in order to facilitate its inclusion in the certification section of that database. Submissions should be sent to the Working Group Chair: Mari.Kirrane@ttb.gov, with a copy to Jamie.Ferman@trade.gov.
2. A review of the WRF use of FIVS-Abridge will be undertaken in an effort to understand if the WRF finds the database useful. Feedback will be requested to find out if there is support for seeking continued access to the system once the WRF multi-year project expires in 2018.

Export Certificates

Chile announced its intention to self-initiate use of the APEC Model Wine Certificate⁸ for exports. Following the Ha Noi meeting, another APEC economy notified the Project Overseer of its intention to also begin issuing the form for its exports. In light of these developments, economies are asked to keep in mind the following key points:

1. APEC economies that do not currently require a certificate of origin, free sale, health, or sanitation for wine imported into their economies should not adopt the use of the APEC Model Wine Certificate.
2. The use of the APEC Model Wine Certificate is at the discretion of the importing APEC economy. However, importing economies are encouraged to employ its use where possible.
3. The APEC Model Wine Certificate includes a list of instructions that should be reviewed when completing the Certificate.
4. The APEC Model Wine Certificate is intended to combine general existing requirements into a single, consolidated document while also allowing economies the flexibility to include additional, importing or exporting economy-required information. Pursuant to the instructions, this information may be included in Block 12 of the APEC Model Wine Certificate. Before employing use of the Certificate for exports, the exporting economy should verify with the importing economy that the certificate will be accepted, and make any revisions in block 12 as necessary to satisfy the importing economy.

⁸ A pdf of the Model Wine Certificate accompanies this Meeting Statement.

5. Block 13 may also be customized to provide any additional requirements or limitations of the appropriate regulatory authority from the exporting APEC economy.

The Working Group will receive from the Working Group on Compendia the collated information submitted by economies in relation to the newly initiated Certificates of Analysis project. This will be considered with a view to eliminating or simplifying and harmonizing economies' requirements, and proposals will be presented at the 2018 meeting of the WRF.

Enhanced Risk Controls

1. The Working Group will consider future rounds of the Ring Test, including the extension of testing to a range of heavy metals.
2. The Working Group will also consider another workshop to extend the training and outcomes from the 2016 workshop and 2017 presentation on good laboratory practice in wine analysis.
3. A series of virtual meetings by Ring Test participants will be held to discuss group results, best analytical practice, and strategies to improve performance going forward.
4. A consolidated report will go to the participants of the Ring Test and program supervisors will offer direct assistance to participants who had specific issues with analysis.
5. The Working Group will consider preparing a presentation demonstrating various technological aids to facilitate traceability across international supply chains.
6. The Compendium of Substances Commonly Found in Wine will continue to be populated with relevant information, and will be centrally curated as an open reference for participating economies. A request was made for interested parties to act on the review committee to determine the suitability of references for inclusion into the compendia. A mechanism will be developed for Working Group members and representatives from APEC communities to submit suitable references for inclusion. During the initial stage of development the compendium will be supported by the AWRI.

Good Regulatory Practices

1. A further revision of the Guide to the Development of Wine Standards incorporating comments received will be circulated shortly and economies were asked to review this, and provide any comments, in anticipation of noting the finalized guide as an APEC WRF reference document at the next meeting.

2. The Working Group will develop case studies of good regulatory practice principles for wine being applied. This could include the review and reporting to the APEC WRF on any relevant technical papers on good regulatory practice principles for wine, such as IWTS papers⁹ on:
 - (1) Harmonizing Expression of Measurement Results in Wine Analysis: Testing for Total or Titratable Acidity (TA) of Wine; and
 - (2) Harmonizing Reporting of Regulatory Limits in Wine Analysis via International Systems of Units.

Pesticide MRLs

1. The Working Group will test the application of the Guideline on the harmonization of MRLs by selecting several priority compounds for which member economies will be asked to consider whether they could establish MRLs based on the Guideline criteria.
2. The Working Group will also consider how to improve the MRL Compendium.

Ha Noi, Viet Nam

May 12, 2017

Statement finalized on 7-26-2017

⁹ <http://www.iwts.org>