



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME  
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION  
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**COMMUNICATION FROM OIV<sup>1</sup>  
(report of activities relevant to Codex work)**

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 45 Member-States producers and consumers of wines representing 85% of world production and almost 80% of world wine consumption respectively. The OIV is based on a network of nearly 950 experts in viticulture, oenology, economic and medical fields. The adhesion of Armenia is underway and should be effective on 24th August. The OIV is defined as an intergovernmental organisation of a scientific and technical nature with recognised expertise in the fields of vines, wine and wine-based beverages, table grapes and raisins and other vine-based products which has held Observer status with the Codex for many years.

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

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<sup>1</sup> This document has been prepared by and under the responsibility of ISO.

**Works in connection with the Codex Committee on Food Additives**

In agreement with its missions, the OIV contributes to the elaboration of new international standards in order to improve the conditions for producing vitivinicultural products.

In this framework, the Member-States of the OIV adopt new oenological practices including the adoption of new food additives or processing aids in the wine making process.

The OIV also plays an equally active part in the works by the Codex Committee on Food Additives, especially during discussions concerning provisions relating to food additives in the Codex General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA), in particular for the "grape wine" category and its sub-categories.

At the last session of the CCFA, the representative of the OIV has pointed out the scientific expertise of the OIV and recalled, for additives evaluated, the decisions taken by the Member-States of the OIV in order to allow coherence between international standards.

Today, the OIV wants to continue its active involvement in the works by the Codex Committee on Food Additives, especially those regarding provisions relating to food additives in the Codex General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) for the "grape wine" category and its sub-categories.

In these circumstances, OIV welcomed the decision of the Codex Committee on Food additives (CCFA) to re-establish an electronic Working Group, open to all members and observers to collect information on the actual levels of use in provisions to be studied and prepare recommendations on a case-by-case basis.

The OIV has already declared its interest in participating in the electronic working group

The OIV is also available to appraise the technological need for additives that are not yet recognized by the OIV.

In this context and in the framework of the cooperation between the Codex Alimentarius and the OIV, a Task Force open not only to Members and Observers of the OIV, but also to members of the Codex Alimentarius has been established and has reported its works during the OIV meeting in March 2014.

The OIV group of experts "Technology", has been informed of the works conducted by the OIV Task Force on additives in wine as it is mentioned in the Final document OIV and has recognized the urgency of this matter taking into account in particular the works conducted by the Codex Alimentarius in this field.

The group of experts "Technology" has decided to establish an electronic working group with the assistance of the OIV Task Force of additives with the goal

- to evaluate and confirm the current limits of certain additives as well as
- to evaluate the status as additives or processing aids of the substances adopted by the OIV in order to prepare a draft resolution in step 3 for consultation to the OIV member states.

The group of experts has also noted that some delegations will prepare a discussion paper and a draft resolution on Fumaric acid for discussion at the next session. As well as on calcium sulfate for special wines.

Therefore, the OIV will work with the committee by providing specific additional information on food additives for the "grape wine" category.

**Works in connection with the Codex Committee on 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 next General Assembly, on 14 November 2014, several analytical methods will be submitted for adoption by the Member States of the OIV in particular

OENO-SCMA 10-456	Criteria to be used for the definition of alternatives methods of determination of pesticide residues in wines
OENO-SCMA 10-457	Method of determination of biogenic amines in wine BY High-performance liquid chromatography with photodiode array detection
OENO-SCMA 10-458	Determination of lysozyme in wine using high performance liquid chromatography
OENO-SCMA 11-480	Determination of methanol in wine using gas chromatography
OENO-SCMA 12-512	Determination of the carbon isotope ratio $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ of $\text{CO}_2$ in sparkling wines: Method using isotope ratio mass spectrometry (IRMS) - modification

### ***Works in connection with the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables***

OIV also attaches considerable importance to unfermented viticultural products such as table grapes and raisins

In 2008, OIV Member States adopted by consensus a standard on the minimum maturity requirements for table grapes (VITI 1-2008).

In this context and in the framework of the cooperation between the Codex Alimentarius and the OIV, the OIV had asked the CCFFV to consider the possibility to revise the maturity requirements in the Codex Standard for Table Grapes.. After evaluation, delegations endorsed the recommendations of electronic working group not to reopen the discussion on maturity requirements in the Standard, which had taken many years of discussion in the Committee.

Taking into account the discussion on this matter within the CCFFV, it could be considered that the two different sets of maturity requirements in the OIV and Codex standards would require harmonisation in the future.

### ***Works in connection with the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables***

At the last General Assembly, the OIV Member-States adopted a resolution OIV-VITI 493-2013 on recommendations at the international level in the field of dried grapes.

This OIV resolution could be considered also by the relevant Codex Committee in particular the CCPFV and that might be of interest to the Committee in particular on CODEX STAN 67-1981

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.