



## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

36<sup>th</sup> Session, FAO Headquarters

Roma (Italy), 1-5 July 2013

#### COMMUNICATION FROM OIV<sup>1</sup>

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 CAC. 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 and which has held Observer status with the Codex for many years. The last member countries joined the OIV is the Republic of Azerbaijan since June 11, 2013. 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.

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 vitivinicultural 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 vitivinicultural 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

---

<sup>1</sup> Document prepared by and under the responsibility of the OIV

**OIV Member-States : Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Luxemburg, FYR Macedonia, Malta, Moldavia, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Uruguay**

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

### ***Works in connection with the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food***

The OIV was involved in the works conducted by the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food as an observer.

Today, the OIV continues its active participation in the works of the Codex Committee on Contaminants and follow with a particular attention, the revision of certain limits and in particular that of lead.

During the works of the electronic Working Group (WG) on MLs for lead in various foods, the International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV) has suggested that the Codex ML (0.200 mg/L) for lead in wine be lowered to 0.150 mg/kg, consistent with the OIV standard adopted in 2006. The OIV took note of the conclusions of the working group indicating that a lower ML for lead in wine may be achievable and the WG recommends reevaluating the ML for wine, but with a lower priority than for other MLs because wine is not an important source of exposure for young children.

### ***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 food additives 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 establish an electronic Working Group, open to all members and observers to prepare recommendations on the horizontal approach to the use of food additives with the technological function of “acidity regulators” and “emulsifier, stabilizer, thickener” in food category 14.2.3 “Grape wines” and its sub-categories as well as recommendations for provisions and proposals for new provisions listed in food category 14.2.3 and its subcategories in CX/FA 13/45/12 and Appendices 2 and 3 of CX/FA 13/45/7.”

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, the Executive Committee of the OIV decided during its meeting on 16 March 2013 to create a Task Force open not only to Members and Observers of the OIV, but also to members of the Codex Alimentarius in order to study proposals, submit to the Codex Alimentarius regarding the additives for grape wine category 14.2.3 and sub-categories and which are not yet considered by the OIV in term of technological justification.

Without prejudice to the work of existing groups of experts and the procedure of adoption of the OIV's resolutions, the mandate of this such Task Force will assess the technological justification of certain additives proposed in the GSFA for category Grape wines and subcategories that are not currently recognized by the OIV.

The OIV will also 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 Anaysis.

At the last General Assembly, on 7 June 2013, several analytical methods have been adopted by the Member States of the OIV in particular

OIV-SCMA 478-2013	Analysis of mineral elements in wines using ICP-AES (Inductively Coupled Plasma / Atomic Emission Spectrometry)
OIV-SCMA 477-2013	Method of determination of Phtalates by gas chromatography/mass spectrometry in wines
OIV-SCMA 521-2013	Method of determination of Phtalates in spirituous beverages by gas chromatography/mass spectrometry
OIV-SCMA 510-2013	Method for <sup>13</sup> C/ <sup>12</sup> C isotope ratio determination of acetic acid in wine vinegar by isotopic mass spectrometry
OIV-SCMA 511-2013	Method for <sup>18</sup> O/ <sup>16</sup> O isotope ratio determination of water in wine vinegar using isotopic mass spectrometry
OIV-SCMA 418-2013	Practical guide for the assessment, quality control, and uncertainty analysis of an oenological analysis method

### ***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 and within the Terms of Reference of the CCFFV namely point (c): “to consult, as necessary, with other international organizations which are active in the area of standardization of fresh fruits and vegetables”, the OIV had asked the CCFFV to consider the possibility to revise the maturity requirements in the Codex Standard for Table Grapes, to align it with relevant OIV texts. The proposal also contained a comparison between the Codex/UNECE and OIV requirements (see CRD 15)

During the 17<sup>th</sup> session, the Committee noted a summary of the current work undertaken by OIV that might be of interest to the Committee in particular on table grapes and the OIV Resolution on Minimum Maturity Requirements for Table Grapes. The Committee agreed to consider the request of OIV on the opportunity to revise section 2.1 on minimum maturity requirements in the Standard for Table Grapes (CODEX STAN 255-2007).

OIV welcomed the decision of the Codex Committee to establish an electronic working group open to all members and observers, coordinated by the United States of America and working in English only to evaluate the proposal of the OIV and to report back to the next session of the Committee on the opportunity to revise the maturity requirements in the Codex Standard for Table Grapes

### ***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 should be considered also by the relevant Codex Committee in particular the CCFFV and that might be of interest to the Committee in particular on CODEX STAN 67-1981 or on the work on the revision of codex standards for processed fruits and vegetables in particular the review of the remaining standards for miscellaneous processed fruits and vegetables, and dry and dried produce as presented in the table on pending work on the review of CX/PFV 12/26/11

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.

In addition, several standards and principles laid down by the Codex Alimentarius have been taken into consideration when drafting specific standards for the vitivincultural sector. These include, in particular:

- The role of science in developing standards
- The principles established by the Committee on food import and export inspection and certification systems adopted by the Commission, in developing the OIV draft resolution regarding the traceability guidelines in the vitivincultural sector.
- The principles and definitions established by the Codex Alimentarius on biotechnologies which were taken into account when drafting certain definitions specific to the vine and wine sector with regards biotechnologies.

This demonstrates the interest that the OIV has in the Codex's works as well as the need for our two organisations to coordinate and cooperate in fields of common interest.

Nowadays, as international standards have become increasingly important through the mechanisms established by the World Trade Organisation, relations between the Codex Alimentarius and the vine and wine sector represented by the OIV should be strengthened. Grape-based beverages are an integral part of foodstuffs and constitute an increasing share of international trade.

In the world today, almost 40% of wine is consumed outside its country of production and for many countries; trade in vitivincultural products represents a significant part of their exports in terms of value.