



Guidance on the temporary process for determining wine is free from obvious fault by sensory evaluation

Purpose

To provide guidance to exporters regarding the temporary provision for determining wine is free from obvious fault by sensory evaluation.

Introduction

Wine must be free from obvious fault to be considered for export eligibility approval. This is determined through sensory evaluation.

A temporary provision has been made in the Wine Notice: New Zealand Grape Wine Export Eligibility 2020 to manage logistical challenges posed by COVID-19. Section 3.1(A) of this Notice refers to a temporary process to determine that wine is free from obvious fault.

MPI acknowledges and understands that these are difficult times for exporters who want to minimise risks to their staff and businesses. We know you are passionate about both food safety and protecting your people.

Temporary process for sensory evaluation

The temporary process enables experienced winemakers to provide a declaration that a wine is free from obvious fault. An experienced winemaker is one who has at least two years' winemaking experience and is sufficiently skilled to enable them to detect obvious faults in wine.

Applicants for export eligibility approval must complete the WA91 form Wine Export Certification: Free from obvious fault assessment declaration, and email it to the Wine Export Certification Service (WECS) (wecs@nzwine.com) along with a photograph(s) of the sample that clearly shows:

- the wine sample (WS) number from Wine E-Cert
- the wine batch (WB) number from Wine E-Cert
- the wine company's name
- the vintage, variety, and winemaker reference
- the bottler reference (lot number), on bottle/label

“Obvious fault” is defined as “oxidised, malodorous or tainted by extraneous flavours”. This means:

- Oxidised: *the wine shows oxidation related faults includes colour, taste and/or aroma faults.*
- Tainted by extraneous flavours: *the wine is tainted by extraneous flavours derived from constituents foreign to wine making best practice.*
- Malodorous: *the wine shows one of the following:*
 - a. mouldiness;*
 - b. mousiness;*
 - c. excessive sulphide characteristics;*
 - d. volatile acidity identified as effecting the organoleptic acceptability of the wine;*
 - e. free sulphur dioxide, where the SO₂ is below the legal limit, but is identified as affecting the organoleptic acceptability of the wine;*
 - f. microbiological contamination.*

Demonstrating a wine is free from obvious fault by sensory evaluation

Follow these easy steps to demonstrate your wine is free from obvious fault

Create your sample in Wine E-Cert

Please note: This has not changed

- Create your sensory sample for your batch in Wine E-Cert in the usual way.
- If you are unsure how to do this, refer to the help guide: *Creating a Batch for export eligibility assessment*.
 - You can access this document from the *Wine E-Cert help guides* link within Wine E-Cert, and login into Tiritiri, MPI's online learning system.

Label your samples with the Wine E-Cert sample number (WS__ / ____ / __)

You must label three samples from your batch

- Ensure the label does not cover any information on your bottle label or bottling reference.
- One sample will be used for your sensory evaluation by an experienced winemaker.
- The other two samples will be your library samples. These samples must be retained for at least two years.

Photograph your sample

Make sure all required details are legible

- You must provide a clear photograph of your sample that shows:
 - a) the wine sample (WS) number from Wine E-Cert
 - b) the wine batch (WB) number from Wine E-Cert
 - c) the wine company's name
 - d) the vintage, variety, and winemaker reference
 - e) the bottler reference (lot number) on bottle/label
- If it's not possible to clearly capture all of the above information in a single photograph, take separate photographs of each part, but ensure the sample number is visible in each.

Complete the Free from obvious fault assessment declaration form (WA91)

Arrange for an experienced winemaker to determine whether or not your wine is free from obvious fault.

- This form can only be signed by an experienced winemaker (one who has at least two years' winemaking experience and is sufficiently skilled to enable them to detect obvious faults in wine).
- Electronic signatures are acceptable, provided they are on the WA91 form.
- Ensure all details are completed, correct and match those entered in Wine E-Cert.

Email your Application to WECS: wecs@nzwine.com

Include your photographs and completed WA91

- Please only send one sample application (photographs and WA91) per email.
- In the subject line of your email write:
Sensory Declaration – (your WS sample number)
- Check you have attached your photograph(s) and completed sensory declaration form
- Ensure your email is not larger than 10 MB

Your sensory evaluation is complete

WECS will update Wine E-Cert for you

- WECS will check all the required details are supplied, and if so will complete the sensory assessment component of your export eligibility application for your batch.
- Remember, you may still need to complete WSMP confirmations, market declarations or chemistry testing before your batch is assessed for export eligibility.
- You can see the progress of this in the 'Batch Status' section of Wine E-Cert.