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**INFORMATION & CALL FOR COMMENTS**

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- 1. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS OF LIQUOR PRODUCTS ACT**
- 2. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO WINE OF ORIGIN SCHEME**

**1 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS OF LIQUOR PRODUCTS ACT**

The administering officer of the Liquor Products Act, 60 of 1989, will be channeling proposed amendments to the Regulations of said Act to the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALR) for consideration and eventual approval and publication by the Minister concerned. The proposed amendments are the result of inputs and requests from and consultations with various parties, including the industries concerned. Due consideration by DALR will take some time, but we shall let you know as soon as publication happens and make an updated set of Regulations available for download.

Please note that we set out the proposed amendments for information purposes and for **comments by 30 September 2019** only – they are not actionable until approved and published by the Minister. Please feel free to email any comments or questions to the contact linked below the date above. The proposed amendments are:

**1.1 Permissible alternative class designations**

New permissible alternative class designations are proposed as follows:

<b>Class designation</b>	<b>Permissible alternative</b>
Skin macerated white	Orange wine
Methode Ancestrale	Petillant natural/natura if the pressure in the bottle in which it is to be sold is equal to or less than 300 kPa.
Pot still brandy	Cape brandy

**1.2 Adding Cannabis to liquor products**

Currently *Cannabis* may not be used in the production of liquor products. To remove any doubt in this regard it is proposed that it be specifically stated that *Cannabis* is not regarded as a flavouring.

**1.3 Incorporating rules regarding gluten, sulphites, lower in alcohol, light, lite and kilojoules**

To enhance legal certainty it is proposed that rules in above regard, which have been applied for several years, be incorporated into the Regulations as follows:

- (1) No person shall -
  - (a) in connection with the sale of wine indicate that such wine is free of sulphites, unless -
    - (i) that wine does not contain any discernible sulphites; or
    - (ii) if that wine contains sulphites in a concentration of less than 10 milligram per litre (measured by aspiration with titration as total sulphur dioxide), such indication of being sulphites free is used in direct conjunction with wording to the effect that the wine contains less than 10 milligram per litre of sulphites.
  - (b) in connection with the sale of wine indicate that such wine has no added sulphites or is low or lower in sulphites, unless that wine contains sulphites in a concentration of less than 10 milligram per litre, measured by aspiration with titration as total sulphur dioxide.

- (c) in connection with the sale of wine indicate that such wine is free of gluten unless such indication is in the form of "naturally gluten free".
- (d) in connection with the sale of wine indicate that such wine is lower in alcohol, light, lite or the like, unless that wine has an actual alcohol content of no more than 10 per cent.
- (e) in connection with the sale of wine indicate that such wine is low in kilojoules, lower in kilojoules or the like, unless that wine has a total (potential plus actual) alcohol content of no more than 10 per cent.

#### **1.4 Addition of water to wine**

Proposed that, in line with international standards, it now be specifically stated that water may be added to wine on account of a specific technical necessity (e.g. dissolve additives, rehydrate yeast or facilitate fermentation). If used to facilitate fermentation, it may not dilute the must below 22 degrees Balling.

#### **1.5 Allow for flavoured vodka and the addition of colourants to flavoured vodka and to gin**

It is put forward that flavourings be allowed to be added to vodka. If so, the word "vodka" must always be used in conjunction with the name of the flavouring and the word "flavoured", e.g. "vanilla flavoured vodka". It is also proposed that colourants may be added to flavoured vodka and to gin. The Regulations already provide, besides juniper berries, for the addition of plant based flavourings to gin.

#### **1.6 Tannin**

Currently tannin may be added to liquor products if "it is not foreign to wine". This nonsensical requirement is proposed to be removed.

#### **1.7 Provide for spirit-barrel-aged wine**

Following international trends, it is suggested to allow wines to be matured in spirit barrels for a minimum period of 3 months. Such a wine must state the name of the spirit concerned, e.g. "whisky-barrel-aged wine".

#### **1.8 Establish "mampoer" as a class of spirit**

To preserve the South African tradition of mampoer, it is proposed to establish a mampoer class of spirit in the Regulations with the following requirements:

Mampoer shall -

- (a) be distilled from the fermented juice of any fruit other than the product of the vine, which is distilled in a pot still to an alcohol content of not more than 75 per cent;
- (b) have an alcohol content of at least 50 per cent.

In addition, other than the addition of water for dilution, none of the substances allowed for some other spirits, may be added to mampoer, e.g. bentonite, caramel, sugar, wood, etcetera.

#### **1.9 Maximum lead content in wine**

At present wine may not contain more than 0.2 mg/l of lead. Following the new international standard, it is proposed that, for wine produced after 31 December 2019, the maximum allowed limit be 0.1 mg/l for unfortified wine and 0.15 mg/l for fortified wine.

#### **1.10 Add "counoise" to the list of varieties allowed for wine production**

After the prerequisite testing, authorities are satisfied that the grape variety "counoise" can be added to the list of varieties allowed for the production of wine.

### 1.11 Pot still brandy requires discontinuous batch distillation

For the avoidance of doubt it is proposed to clearly state that the distillation in a pot still for pot still brandy entails discontinuous batch distillation.

## 2 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO WINE OF ORIGIN SCHEME

As with above-mentioned proposed amendments to the Regulations, we set out the proposed amendments to the Wine of Origin Scheme for information purposes and for **comments by 30 September 2019** only – they are not actionable until approved and published by the Minister. Please feel free to email any comments or questions to the contact linked below the date above.

### 2.1 Add "counoise" to the list of varieties allowed for certified wine

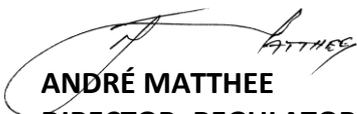
After the prerequisite testing, authorities are satisfied that the grape variety "counoise" can be added to the list of varieties allowed for the production of certified wine.

### 2.2 Allow the use of "estate" on non-estate wine

Under the Regulations the full name and address or the code number of the responsible seller must appear on a label. This is for traceability purposes. The WO Scheme does not allow the use of "estate" on wine not grown, made and bottled on the estate. It is proposed that for wine made on the estate, but not necessarily grown or bottled on the estate, the use of "estate" as part of such full name be allowed.

### 2.3 Expanding the objects of the WO Scheme

Proposed to expand the stated objects of the WO Scheme to make more specific provision for single vineyard wine. This is accomplished by saying that, in addition to the other stated objects, in the case of single vineyard wine, the objects are "to express the distinctive characteristics of a small specific site as determined by soil, cultivar, rootstock, clone, meso-climate, exposure and viticultural and winemaking purposes".



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WINE OF ORIGIN (WO) · INTEGRATED PRODUCTION OF WINE (IPW) · ESTATE BRANDY

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