

WINE AND SPIRIT BOARD/SAWIS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION RE SERVICES DURING LOCKDOWN, LEVEL 1

A nationwide lockdown came into effect at 24:00 on Thursday 26 March 2020. As from 21 September 2020 we have moved to Level 1, which will continue until further notice.

This official communication has been prepared in accordance with the rules of Level 1 of the lockdown, which permits the export of wine as well as the sale of wine in the local market with certain restrictions. Thus, all activities pertaining to the export and sale of wine is permitted.

During level 1 of the lockdown period the following will apply.

Certification operations will continue as follows:

Wine to be exported and sold locally during level 1 of the lockdown period:

- Sensorial evaluation will not be reinstated under level 1.
- Wines must be submitted for analysis.
- Seals will be issued and can be collected from the SAWIS premises between normal office hours. Please phone ahead (021 807 5736) before collection and when arriving at the gate. In the case of Robertson office, please contact Carel van der Merwe (083 444 6950) to arrange for the collection of seals.
- Status quo remains with regard to BG 5, 6 and bottling notifications.
- Olifants River to be serviced on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Notifications of samples not later than Monday and Wednesday, 12:00.

Specific working procedures applicable for exports and local sales during level 1 of the lockdown period:

- All applications on Wine Online continue as normal.
- Seals will be issued by way of a BG9 admin application for wine to be exported or sold locally.
- BG9 special tariff or BG9 with samples applications will only be allowed for unlabelled bottled wine.
- Bulk tank submissions for the local market will not be allowed.
- Wines not sensorially approved to be submitted via BG9 with samples, BG9 special tariff, BG11 with samples or BG11 bulk. Please contact your inspector to collect samples for analysis. Drawing of samples and notifications to the inspectors as according to the certification manual.
- Unlabelled bottled wine where the sensorial date has expired, the same procedure will apply as for BG9 special tariff or BG11 with samples.
- Status quo with regard to BG11 admins.
- BG11 speed lines to be arranged with Certification Services.
- After hour submissions will be dealt with in accordance with any curfew instated during any level of the lockdown period.

Uncertified wine

The export of uncertified wine has been allowed as from Tuesday, 1 September 2020 without the mandatory certification. Follow the same procedures as before the lockdown, i.e. notify the DALRRD inspector, who will draw the control samples.

Industrial wine

The exports of industrial wine will be allowed provided that it follows the same process as certified wine. Limitations on control measures at the harbour due to the lockdown necessitates that industrial wine be certified as it is the only control measure available at this stage. The control over the use of industrial wine is done by the DALRRD through verifying the official letters, the contract and the labels of the final products and by issuing documentation that relates to industrial wine that is not for potable use. They also request the official body on a risk basis to visit the actual importer to verify that the industrial wine has indeed been used for vinegar, cheese or whatever the indicated non-alcoholic purpose.

Applying for an export certificate

The DALRRD office continues to issue all export documentation remotely. Electronic certification has been implemented on Wine Online as an urgent measure to ensure that export clearance can continue. All clearance documentation, e.g. VI1 documentation, analyses certificates, health certificates, etc. will be issued electronically until the DALRRD offices reopen.

Certification and Information Administration Training

SAWIS has commenced with training as from the first week in October via the online Zoom platform. Please contact Kevin de Villiers (kevin@sawis.co.za) in this regard.

Wine and Spirit Board

The Wine and Spirit Board Label Committee will continue with its Wednesday meetings. It remains a roleplayer's responsibility to submit their labels timeously for approval.

All Wine and Spirit Board Technical Committee meetings will be on an ad hoc basis.

The Wine and Spirit Board Demarcation Committee handles all applications electronically and telephonically as far as possible.

The Wine and Spirit Board Management Committee holds virtual meetings.

Olivia Poonah
Wine and Spirit Board

Yvette van der Merwe
SAWIS

13 November 2020