

ALLERGEN UPDATE – December 2011

The European Commission amended Directive 2000/13 with Directive 2007/68 which potentially adds further allergenic ingredients to the existing requirement to mention sulphur dioxide. These *may* have to be shown in due course on wine labels if used during wine making.

UK food labelling regulations originally made the inclusion of allergen labelling compulsory from 25 November 2005, in accordance with Commission Directive 2003/89 which amended the main food labelling Directive 2000/13. The Food Labelling (Declarations of Allergens) (England) Regulations 2011/402 enforce these provisions. (similar legislation for Scotland and Wales). Enforcement of this regulation lies with food authorities and enquiries should be directed to local Trading Standards.

The European Food Safety Authority's Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies (NDA) published Opinions in August and October 2007 which resulted in fish products (isinglass) being permanently exempted. Further research has been funded by the wine industry into egg white and milk products (fining agents) to see if there is a case for similar exemption.

Existing descriptions for sulphur dioxide

- **Contains sulphur dioxide** (or sulphites/sulfites). The description applies if the finished wine contains more than 10 milligrams per litre of SO₂ (which most stable wines will have).

This must be shown on any label of a wine-sector product. For the UK market, this should be in English following the general principle of intelligibility for the final consumer. Other languages may also be shown. The European Commission published a list of languages accepted by authorities in each Member State after the initial sulphur dioxide requirement was introduced.

Egg and milk products

The European Commission extended the temporary derogation exempting wine from statements for egg and milk products until 30 June 2012 (Regulation 1266/2010).

October 2011

The European Food Safety Authority published unfavourable Opinions on egg, milk and lysozyme in wine – see weblink under References. 30 June 2012 will be the deadline unless the European Commission extends this.

References

Food labelling Directives

see <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/legis/20090301/chap152020.htm> for regulations relating to Consumers.

Food Labelling (Declaration of Allergens) (England) Regulations 2011 SI 402 for this and similar legislation in the devolved regions, see Office of Public Sector Information website <http://www.opsi.gov.uk>

Wine regulations, including Commission Regulation 607/2009

see <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/legis/20100201/chap036055.htm>

Languages permitted in each Member State

see http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/markets/wine/index_en.htm

European Food Safety Authority

see http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/ScientificPanels/efsa_locale-1178620753812_NDA.htm

for more information on the NDA and Opinions

Ingredients referred to in Directive 2007/68 – extracts

1. cereals containing gluten, including wheat
3. Eggs and products thereof.
4. Fish and products thereof, except:
 - (a) fish gelatine used as carrier for vitamin or carotenoid preparations;
 - (b) fish gelatine or Isinglass used as fining agent in beer and wine.
7. Milk and products thereof (including lactose), except:
 - (a) whey used for making distillates or ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin for spirit drinks and other alcoholic beverages;
 - (b) lactitol.
12. Sulphur dioxide and sulphites at concentrations of more than 10 mg/kg or 10 mg/litre expressed as SO₂.