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## **Guidance title**

Labelling of European Union  
Still Wines

Reviewed April 2018

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### Alternative formats

If you require this information in an alternative format such as audio, large print or Braille, please telephone the FSA Helpline on 020 7276 8829 or email [helpline@food.gov.uk](mailto:helpline@food.gov.uk)

For any technical queries relating to this guidance please contact your Regional Wine Inspector whose details can be found at <http://www.food.gov.uk/business-industry/winestandards/contactinspectors>

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## SUMMARY

<b>Intended audience:</b>	UK bottlers, wine shippers, wine wholesalers
<b>Which UK nations does this cover?</b>	All UK countries
<b>Purpose:</b>	Labelling provisions required under wine sector regulations
<b>Legal status:</b>	regulatory guidance
<b>Key words</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Labelling</li><li>• Wine</li></ul>
<b>Next review date</b>	April 2020

## REVISION HISTORY

This guidance follows the Government [Code of Practice on Guidance](#). If you believe this guidance breaches the Code for any reason, please let us know by email

If you have any comments on the guidance itself please email [winestandards@food.gov.uk](mailto:winestandards@food.gov.uk)

<b>Revision No.</b>	<b>Revision date</b>	<b>Revision</b>	<b>Revised by</b>
1	October 2013	Category Wine reference – Further Details 1 Allergens update – 7	John Boodle
2	April 2016	Updated contact details Updates to legislation and revisions to text	Graham Finch

## CONTENTS

<b>Labelling of European Union Still Wines .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Summary .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Revision History .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Contents .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Intended audience .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Purpose of guidance .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Legal status of guidance .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Additional advice .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Compulsory labelling information .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Display of compulsory information .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Further details .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Optional items .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>References .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Review .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Appendix – Example Label layouts.....</b>	<b>13</b>

## INTENDED AUDIENCE

This information is intended for wine traders in the United Kingdom who market wine in the wholesale sector.

## PURPOSE OF GUIDANCE

These guidance notes have been produced to provide advice on the legal requirements of the relevant parts of Regulation (EU) No: 1308/2013, Regulation (EU) No: 1169/2011 and Regulation (EC) No: 607/2009. This guidance sets out the information which must be included and/or may be shown on labels for wines produced in the European Union.

## LEGAL STATUS OF GUIDANCE

These guidance notes have been produced to explain the legal requirements of the wine labelling provisions in EC Regulations. They cannot cover every situation and you may need to consider the relevant legislation itself to see how it applies in your own circumstances.

If you follow the guidance notes they will help you to comply with the law.

## ADDITIONAL ADVICE

Example label layouts are shown in the Appendix on pages 13 and 14.

The layouts are only illustrative. Provided the compulsory and optional particulars are correctly displayed other label designs are permitted.

Businesses with specific queries may wish to seek the advice of their local Wine Standards Inspector. Our Inspectors will be happy to advise you free of charge as to whether your label complies with the regulations. Although we respond to enquiries as quickly as we can please allow at least 20 working days for feedback on your label design.

# COMPULSORY LABELLING INFORMATION

## Outline requirements

The following compulsory details must appear on wine labels:-

1. A statement of provenance i.e. Wine / Country of Origin
2. Category of product – usually “Wine” for still wines. (Not required for wine displaying a Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) or Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) statement. See point 5 under Further Details below.
3. For wines with a Protected Designation of Origin or a Protected Geographical Indication:-
  1. The term Protected Designation of Origin or the term Protected Geographical Indication - as the case may be - or
  2. A protected name – see item 6 in Further Details below - or
  3. A traditional expression
4. The Bottler details or for bag in box the filler\packager details
5. The nominal volume
6. Actual alcoholic strength
7. An allergens statement\*
8. A Lot number\*

\* The allergens statement and the lot number are not required to be in the same field of vision as the other compulsory particulars so may appear on a different label.

## Display of Compulsory Information

All compulsory particulars must be in indelible type and must be clearly separate and distinguishable from all other graphics and text. Technically all of the mandatory information should run horizontally but information shown vertically around the label may be accepted if it can be clearly read without actually having to turn or rotate the

bottle.

## Further details

### 1. Provenance statement (Wine/Country of origin)

The regulations require a clear statement of "provenance" in one of the following formats and showing the EU Member State from where the wine originates.

These should be in one of the following formats

1. Wine of [Member State]
2. Product of [Member State ] or
3. Produced in [Member State]

For wines produced in the United Kingdom, the names "England" or "Wales" (which are not Member States) may legally be substituted for the United Kingdom.

#### Blended wines

Wines which are obtained by blending wines from different EU Member States (normally referred to as "Euroblends") must be described using one of the following descriptions:-

1. 'Blend of wines from different countries of the European Community'  
or
2. "European Community Wine"

#### Use of grapes harvested elsewhere

If wine is made in the UK from grapes harvested in other Member States the expression must be either:-

1. Wine made in UK from grapes harvested in (Member State where harvested)  
or
2. European Community Wine

As neither "Euroblends" or wines made in one Member State from grapes harvested outside that Member State, are eligible to be PDO or PGI wines, such wines would not normally be allowed to show a grape variety or vintage. To facilitate the showing of a grape variety in such circumstances a formal Varietal Wine certification process would need to be established by the Member States concerned.

### 2. Bottler's (or filler\packager) details

The bottler (or the filler details for bag in box products) must be shown to provide

traceability. Generally the bottler or filler is legally responsible for the product.

For bottlers or fillers who actually own the wine when it is bottled or filled the expressions to be used are:

Bottled by [----] or Bottler [----] with name, local administrative address and Member State plus the location of actual bottling if this is not in the immediate proximity.

In the UK the company's name followed by their postcode and then "UK" is usually sufficient.

### Contract bottling

In many cases the owner of a wine may commission another completely different company to bottle or pack the wine on their behalf. In these situations the terms:-

- "Bottled for [----] should be used for bottling and
- "Packaged by [ ] or packager [ ] should be used for bag in box and other containers.

In each case the location of the bottling or packaging must also be shown. So for example, in the case of company ABC Ltd arranging for another company to bottle their wine the expression would be:

*"Bottled for ABC Ltd, address\ postcode, UK) (optionally "by" the name of bottler) "at" (bottler's administrative address or their postcode UK)".*

### Official codes

As can be seen, the bottling details, especially for contract bottling, can be rather cumbersome and therefore the rules allow for the details to be replaced, in certain circumstances, by an official code issued by the Wine Standards team. Any companies wishing to apply for an official code should contact their Regional Inspector

### **3. Nominal Volume expression**

This must be shown in litres, centilitres or millilitres and expressed in figures e.g. 75cl, 375ml.

The minimum height requirements are shown below but Local Authority Trading

Standards or Environmental Health Officers are responsible for Weights and Measures (Packaged Goods) enforcement and guidance.

Container Volume	Height
20cl or less	3mm
22 cl - 100cl	4mm
100cl or more	6mm

#### 4. **Alcoholic strength**

The alcoholic strength or “abv” must be shown as whole or half units e.g. XX%vol. or XX.5%vol.

The statement may be preceded by either ‘Actual Alcoholic strength’ or Actual alcohol’ or ‘Alc.’ The size of the statement depends on the size of the container volume as indicated below.

Container volume	Height
20cl or less	2mm
20cl – 100cl	3mm
100 cl or more	5mm

#### 5. **Protected Designations of Origin (PDO) and Protected Geographical Indications (PGI)**

If a wine is of either Protected Designation of Origin or Protected Geographical Indication status then this must be shown on the label unless an approved traditional expression or protected name is used.

The abbreviated term “PDO” or “PGI” is of itself insufficient.

Wines with Protected Designation of Origin status must be made entirely within the specified production region from grapes and wine from the stated region, unless the Member State concerned has provided a formal derogation permitting them to be produced in a neighbouring area. This may occur for historic reasons.

For wines with Protected Geographical Indication status up to 15% of the grapes or wine for blending may come from another area within the same Member State.

Details of Protected Designations of Origin and Protected Geographical Indications are shown on the EU e-bacchus website

<http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets/wine/e-bacchus/>

The Protected Designation of Origin expressions for United Kingdom wines are “English” and “Welsh”.

The Protected Geographical Indications for United Kingdom wines are “English Regional” and “Welsh Regional”

#### **6. Protected names**

Wines with protected names do not need to show the term “Protected Designation of Origin”. These wines are listed in Article 59 of Regulation 607/2009. Examples include Commandaria, Madeira, Marsala, Port, Rioja, Samos and Sherry.

#### **7. Allergens Statement**

The display of allergenic ingredients is required by EU Regulation (EU) No: 1169/2011 which has been implemented in the UK by the Food Information Regulations 2014.

The allergens statement, which must be in English or USA English, is required if the Sulphur Dioxide level exceeds 10mg/l and/or if milk or egg residues in the wine exceed 0.25mg/l. For wine, the regulations require the statement to be in the format

“Contains [name of allergen]”.

The statement must be clearly legible and must be at least 1.2 mm high based on the lower case of the letter "x" of the font being used.

Further guidance on allergens is available on the Food Standards Agency web pages at

<http://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/multimedia/pdfs/enforcement/wineallergenlabeloct13.pdf>

<http://www.food.gov.uk/policy-advice/allergyintol/label/>

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See also item 14 in Optional Items regarding additional permitted symbols.

## 8. Lot numbers

A Lot number indicating when the batch in question was produced must be shown on the label. This is to enable traceability and to allow, in the case of a serious problem occurring, for only affected batches of the product to be withdrawn from sale.

This lot number is usually prefixed with “L” followed by numbers indicating the date and time of production. Although the wine regulations require a lot number to be shown the format for the number itself is the responsibility of Local Authority Trading Standards Departments.

## Optional Items

Any optional information shown on a label, including within the descriptive text, must not mislead or confuse the consumer as to the true provenance or quality of the product. This includes the overall presentation of the product. In particular labels must not refer to other protected designations of origin or protected geographical indications or use terms protected for other wines.

Labels must not state that the product is “similar to” “like” “in the style of” “made like” etc. and cite the name of another PDO, PGI or protected expression.

In certain cases this extends to company names, brand names and trademarks. This also applies to the use of certain grape variety names. Lists of protected grape variety names are contained in Annex XV of Regulation 607/2009.

## 8. Vine variety

A vine variety may only be shown on a Protected Designation of Origin wine, a Protected Geographical Indication wine or a certified Varietal wine.

Where one variety is shown, the wine must contain at least 85% of the named variety. Where two or more varieties are shown the wine must only contain those varieties and they must be shown in descending order.

The names used must be the correct name or the approved synonym for the variety. The “List of international vine varieties and their synonyms” is published by the Office International du Vin (OIV) see <http://www.oiv.int/oiv/info/enplublicationoiv>

## 9. **Vintage**

A vintage may only be shown on wines with PDO or PGI status and on certified Varietal Wines. The wine must contain at least 85% of the named vintage.

## 10. **Residual sugar level**

The terms which must be used, including *dry*, *medium dry*, *medium*, *medium sweet*, *sweet*, to indicate a specified range of residual sugar in grams per litre are set out in Regulation E C 607/2009 Annex XIV

## 11. **Traditional terms “methods of production”**

Traditional terms may be used only if the wine meets the relevant definitions. Some traditional terms are protected only for use by specific Member States who have registered the terms with the Commission. These are listed on the EU e- Bacchus website

<http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets/wine/e-bacchus/>

Examples include “Chateau” (France and Luxembourg), “Reserva” (Spain and Portugal) and “Gran Reserva” (Spain).

## 12. **Use of Trademarks**

Trademarks must not conflict with Protected Designations of Origin, Protected Geographical Indications or other protected traditional terms. However, there are exemptions for terms which were in use and which were registered within the EU before 4<sup>th</sup> May 2002. Further details are in Regulation EC 607/2009 Article 41

## 13. **Vineyard terms**

Specified descriptions (e.g. "Cru", "Clos") may only be used by countries which have notified these to the Commission. These terms are listed in Regulation 607/2009 Annex XIII.

## 14. **Community symbols**

Symbols cannot be used to replace compulsory information such as Protected Designation of Origin or Protected Geographical Indication statements or allergens warnings. However, a symbol authorised by the EC may be used in addition to the display of the required information.

The symbols shown below for Protected Designation of Origin or Protected Geographical Indication wines may be downloaded from the EC website [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/quality/schemes/logos/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/quality/schemes/logos/index_en.htm)



The following symbols to highlight the presence of allergens are approved for use and appear in Regulation (EU) No 579/2012

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:171:0004:0007:EN:PDF>



## REFERENCES

eBacchus website for protected geographical regions and traditional terms

<http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets/wine/e-bacchus/index.cfm?event=pwelcome&language=EN>

Council Regulation (EU No: 1308/2013)

Commission Regulation (EC No: 607/2009)

Council Regulation (EU 1169/2011)

## REVIEW

The guidance will be reviewed in April 2018. If you wish to give comments on this

guidance please email [winestandards@food.gov.uk](mailto:winestandards@food.gov.uk)

# APPENDIX

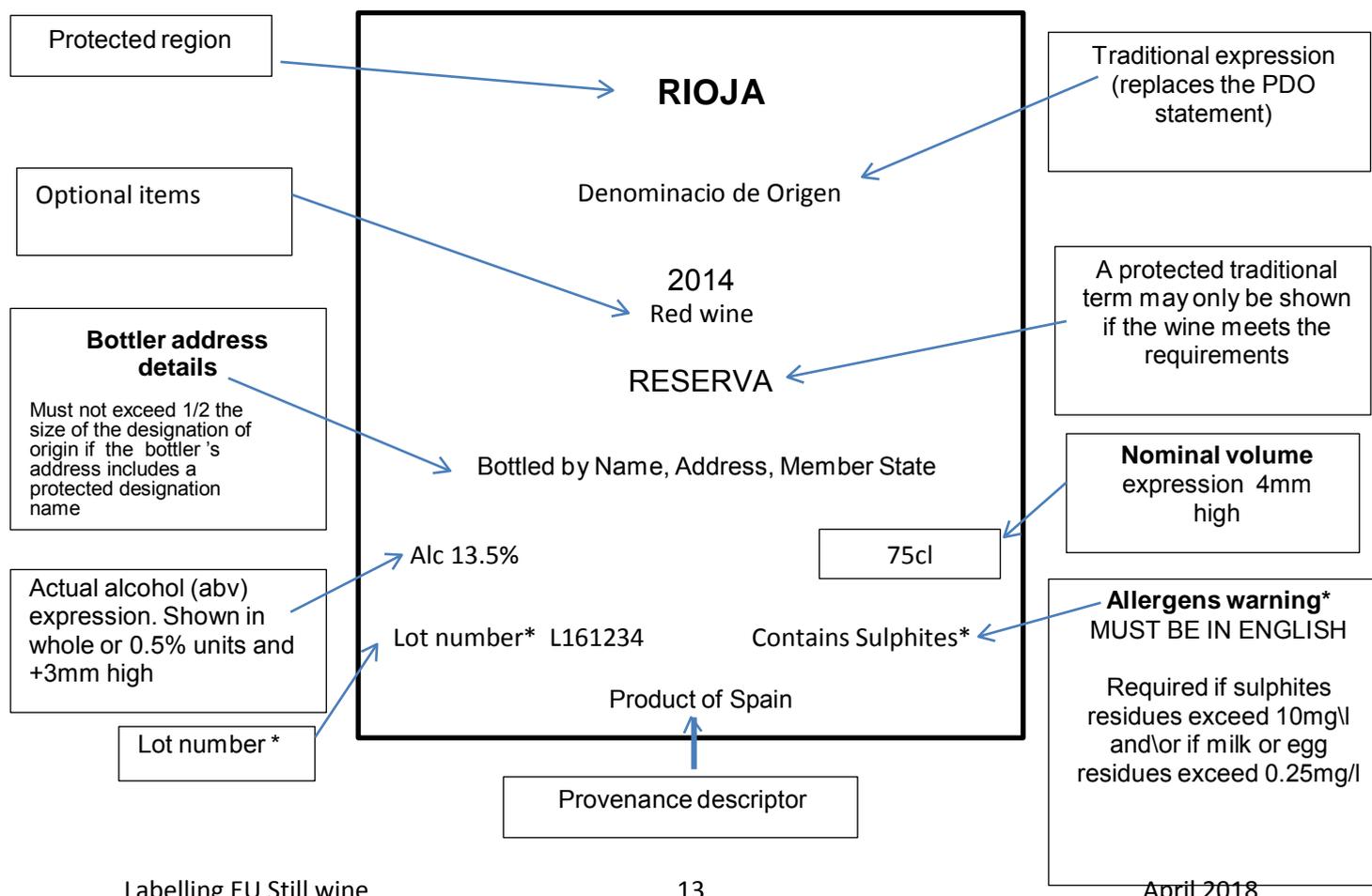
## European label examples

**Note :** All compulsory particulars must be presented in indelible characters and must be clearly distinguishable from surrounding text or graphics. Unless otherwise indicated all compulsory particulars must appear in the same field of vision in such a way as to be simultaneously readable without having to turn the container.

\* Items marked with an asterisk are compulsory items that can appear on a different label.

The following layouts are only illustrative. Provided the compulsory and optional particulars are correctly displayed other label designs are permitted. Our Inspectors will be happy to advise you free of charge as to whether your label complies with the regulations. Please allow at least 20 working days for feedback on your label design.

### For wine with a Protected Designation of Origin or Protected Geographical Indication



## For wine or Varietal wine

