



Labelling of European Union Still Wines

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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

For any technical queries relating to this guidance please [contact your Regional Wine Inspector.](#)

Guidance prepared by
Wine Standards Team

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Summary

Intended audience:	UK bottlers, wine shippers, wine wholesalers
Which UK nations does this cover?	All UK countries
Purpose:	Labelling provisions required under wine sector regulations
Legal status:	regulatory guidance
Key words	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Labelling• Wine
Next review date	December 2021

Revision history

Revision No.	Revision date	Revision	Revised by
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
3	July 2019	Updates to legislation to reflect repealed EU Regulations	Wine Standards Team

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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 (EU) No: 2019/33. 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 as to whether your label complies with the regulations. Although we respond to enquiries as quickly as we can, our response time to all correspondence is 20 working days.

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 or other packaging types 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 the same field of vision on the container, in such a way as to be simultaneously legible without having to turn the container, in indelible characters and must (shall) be clearly distinguishable from surrounding text or graphics.

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 Union' or
2. "European Union 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 obtained in UK from grapes harvested in (Member State where harvested) or
2. European Union 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. Category of Product Statement

A designation for the category of the grapevine product must be shown in accordance with EU (Regulation) 1308/2013 Annex VII Part II

For still wines this is usually 'Wine'

Reference to the category of the grapevine product may be omitted for wines whose labels include the name of a Protected Designation of Origin or a Protected Geographical Indication.

3. 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 neighboring 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 eAmbrosia websites](#).

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.”

Protected names

Wines with protected names do not need to show the term “Protected Designation of Origin”. These wines are listed in EU Regulation 2019/33 Article 23. Examples include Commandaria, Madeira, Marsala, Port, Rioja, Samos and Sherry.

4. Bottler’s (or filler\packager) details

The bottler (or the filler details for bag in box products) must be shown to provide traceability. 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. The code must be followed by the Member State (UK). Any companies wishing to apply for an official code should contact their Regional Inspector.

5. 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

6. Alcoholic strength

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

The alcohol strength figure must (shall) be followed by the ‘% vol’ symbol and may be preceded by the words ‘*actual alcoholic strength*’, ‘*actual alcohol*’ or ‘*alc*’. The size of the statement must be must be equal to or greater than 1,2 mm, regardless of the character format used.

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 are detectable in the wine. 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 equal to or greater than 1,2 mm, regardless of the character format used.

See also item 15 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 packaging. 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 Regulation (EU) 2019/33 Annex IV Part A

9. 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 \(OIV\)](#).

10. 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.

11. 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 (EU) 2019/33 Part B of Annex III

12. 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](#)

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

13. 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 4th May 2002. Further details are in Regulation (EU) 2019/33 Article 32

14. 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 (EU) 2019/33 Annex VI.

15. 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



The following pictograms are approved for use and may only accompany the terms highlighting the presence of allergens and appear in Regulation (EU) 2019/33 Article 41(2) and Annex I Part B



References

[eBacchus](#) and [eAmbrosia](#) websites for Protected Geographical Indications and traditional terms

Council Regulation (EU No: 1308/2013

Commission Regulation (EU) 2019/33

Council Regulation (EU 1169/2011

Review

The guidance will be reviewed in December 2021. If you wish to give comments on this guidance please email winestandards@food.gov.uk

Appendix

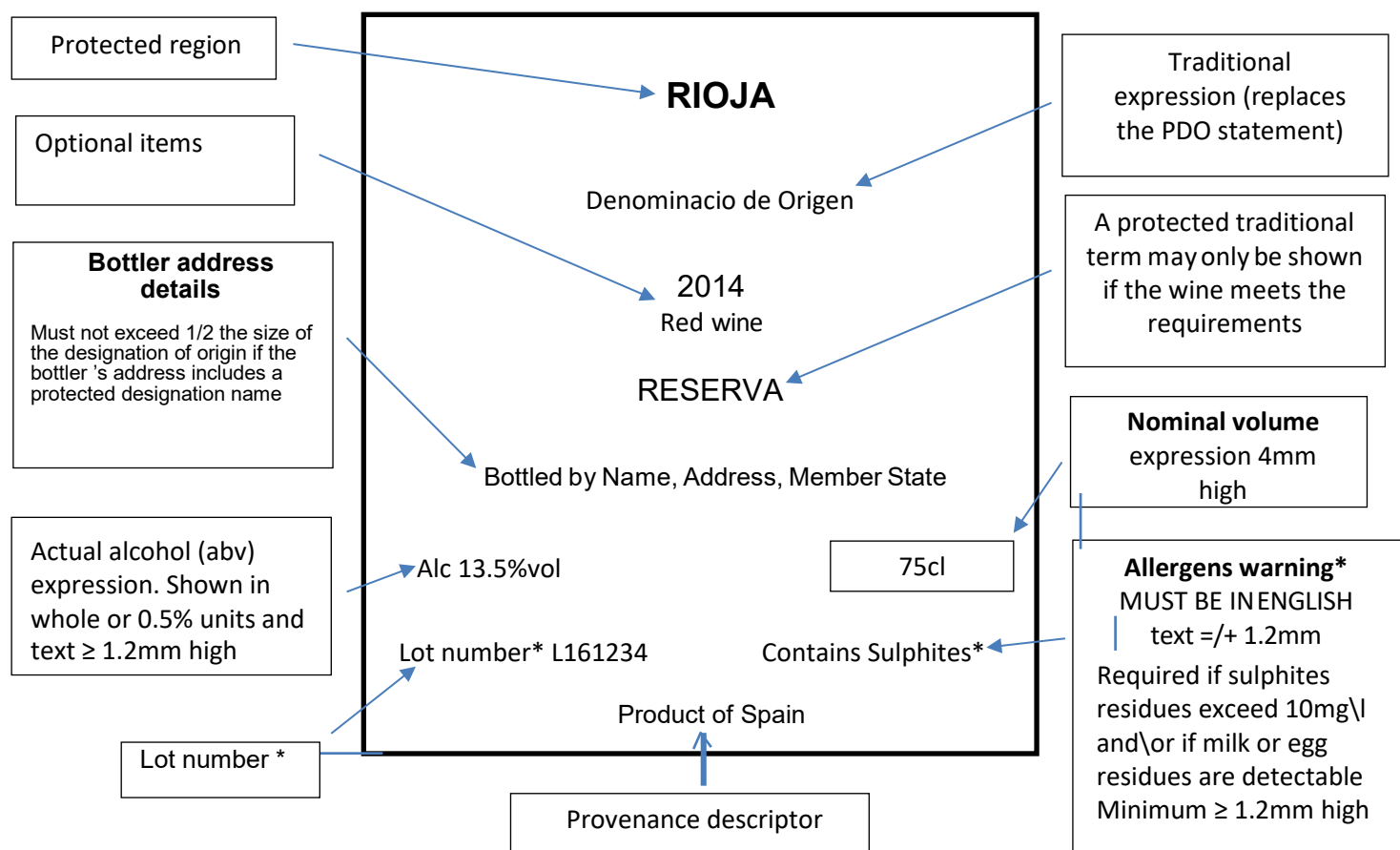
European label examples

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 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

