



Guidance title

Labelling of Sparkling wine (excluding semi sparkling wine and aerated sparkling products)

Reviewed May 2018

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 whose details can be found at <http://www.food.gov.uk/business-industry/winestandards/contactinspectors>

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SUMMARY

Intended audience:	wine wholesalers and importers, sparkling wine producers
Which UK nations does this cover?	All UK countries
Purpose:	Labelling provisions required under wine sector regulations
Legal status:	regulatory guidance
Key words	Labelling, wine, sparkling, aerated, quality sparkling, aromatic
Review date	May 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 emailing betterregulation@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk. If you have any comments on the guidance itself, please email winestandards@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

Revision No.	Revision date	Revision	Revised by
1	October 2013	Allergens statement	Wine Standards
2	May 2016	Updated contact details Update to legislation	Graham Finch

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INTENDED AUDIENCE

This information is intended for wine traders and importers in the United Kingdom who market sparkling wine in the wholesale sector and for UK sparkling wine producers.

These guidance notes relate to the following product categories:-

- Sparkling Wine;
- Quality Sparkling Wine
- Quality aromatic sparkling wine – note this is sparkling wine made from certain specified “aromatic” grape varieties as set out in Appendix 1 of Regulation 606/2009

For labelling of semi-sparkling wines and aerated sparkling wines see the Labelling Guidance –other products.

http://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/wine_other_products_18042016.pdf

PURPOSE OF GUIDANCE

This guidance has been produced to set out the information which must be included and which may optionally be shown on labels for sparkling wines marketed in the European Community. 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

LEGAL STATUS OF GUIDANCE

These guidance notes have been produced to explain the legal requirements of 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 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 14 and 15

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 PARTICULARS

Outline requirements

The following information (apart from the importer details, the lot number and the allergens statement) **must** appear on a label in one field of vision. See Display of Compulsory information and also Further Details.

1. A statement of provenance i.e. Wine / Country of Origin
2. Category of product – e.g. Sparkling Wine, Quality Sparkling Wine or Quality Aromatic Sparkling Wine. (Not required for wine displaying a Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) or Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) statement)
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 in Further Details below – or
 3. A traditional expression
4. The producer details
 1. For an EU product – the Producer or the Vendor
 2. For a Third Country product – the Producer and the Importer*
5. An indication of the sugar content e.g. Brut, Demi - Sec
6. The nominal volume
7. The actual alcoholic strength
8. An allergens statement*
9. A Lot number*

The asterisked items do not need to be in the same field of vision as the other compulsory particulars so they may appear on a different label.

Display of Compulsory Information

Unless otherwise indicated, all of the compulsory particulars must appear in a single field of vision and be in indelible type. The information 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 and simultaneously read without actually having to turn or rotate the bottle.

Further details

1. Provenance statement

For Sparkling Wine, Quality Sparkling Wine or Quality Aromatic Sparkling Wine the regulations require a clear statement of "provenance" in one of the following formats:-

For products **without** protected designation of origin or protected geographical indication:-

- (i) the words 'wine of (...)', 'produced in (...)', 'product of (...)' or 'sekt of (...)', or expressed in equivalent terms, supplemented by the name of the Member State or third country where the grapes are harvested and turned into wine in that territory or
- (ii) the words 'produced in (...)', or expressed in equivalent terms, supplemented by the name of the Member State where the second fermentation takes place;

For wines **with** protected designation of origin or protected geographical indication:-

the words 'wine of (...)', 'produced in (...)' or 'product of (...)', or expressed in equivalent terms, supplemented by the name of the Member State or third country where the grapes are harvested and turned into wine in that territory.

In the case of a trans-border protected designation of origin or geographical indication, only the name of one or more Member State(s) or third country(ies) shall be mentioned

Wine produced in the United Kingdom

Wines produced in the United Kingdom, may show the names "England" or "Wales" (which are not Member States) instead of "United Kingdom". However, the words "English" or "Welsh" may **only** be used on wines with Protected Designation of Origin or Protected Geographical Indication status.

2. Category of product

The relevant product category must be shown unless the wine displays a Protected Designation of Origin or Protected Geographical Indication or a Protected Name. The product definitions for the different categories are shown in Annex VII part II of Regulation (EU) No: 1308\2013. In addition, some sparkling products must also meet additional requirements contained in Regulation (EC) No: 606\2008. It is important that the correct

product category is shown.

3. Protected Designation of Origin or Protected Geographical Indication

If the wine holds the status of Protected Designation of Origin or Protected Geographical Indication the expression must be shown on the label with the named geographical indication unless either

- a traditional term listed by the EC is shown – see the eBacchus website <http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets/wine/e-bacchus/> or
- a protected name is used (e.g. Champagne, Cava, Prosecco)

This also applies to third country wines but no registrations of such terms currently appear on the eBacchus website

4. 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 Cava, Asti. Champagne

5. Producer/vendor and importer details

Details of the producer or vendor of a sparkling wine must be shown on the label. In addition if the wine is imported from a third country then the details of the EU importer must be shown. The terms “producer” “importer” and “vendor” are defined in Article 56 of Regulation (EC) No: 607\2009

‘producer’ means a natural or legal person or a group of such persons by whom or on whose behalf the processing of the grapes, grape musts and wine into sparkling wines, aerated sparkling wine, quality sparkling wine or quality aromatic sparkling wines is carried out;

“importer” means a natural or legal person or group of such persons established within the Community assuming responsibility for bringing into circulation non-Community goods within the meaning of Article 4(8) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2913/92.

“vendor” means a natural or legal person or a group of such persons, not covered by the definition of producer, purchasing and then putting sparkling wines, aerated sparkling wine, quality sparkling wine or quality aromatic sparkling wines into circulation;

Details of the producer must include “Produced by” (or Vendor or Sold by) + the name, local administrative area & country in which the head office is situated.

Some EU Member States may have authorized the expressions “ Processor\processed by----” and Winemaker\Made by---”.

Importer details for third country wine

As well as indicating the producer in the third country the label must show details of the EU importer in the format:-

“Imported by” (or Importer) + name of the Importer with the local administrative area & Member State of the head office.

In the UK this can be achieved by saying “Imported by [Company name], [postcode], UK.

6. Indication of sugar content

The sugar content must be shown using one of the approved terms shown in Part A of Annex XIV of Regulation (EC) No:- 607\2009 - e.g. Brut, Demi-sec.

Some of the ranges overlap. Where the sugar level in the wine is covered by more than one term, only one of the specified terms may be used. The sugar content may not differ by more than 3 grams per litre from the description that appears on the product label.

7. 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 are responsible for Weights and Measures (Packaged Goods) enforcement and guidance).

Container volume	Min Height
20 cl or less	3mm
100 cl or less	4mm
100 cl +	6mm

8. Alcoholic strength

The alcoholic strength or “abv” must be shown as whole or half units e.g. XX%vol. or XX.5%vol. (Note – due to a bilateral agreement Australian wines may indicate the abv expression in 0.1% units)

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

The actual alcohol level must be within 0.8% of the level shown on the label.

9. 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/>

See also item 15 in Optional Items regarding additional permitted symbols.

10. 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 INFORMATION

11. Vine variety and/or vintage

Certain optional information such as vine variety and/or vintage may only be shown on wines with Protected Designation of Origin or Protected Geographical Indication status or which are officially recognised as Varietal wine.

Varieties – where one named variety is shown this must make up a minimum of 85% of the wine. For two or more named varieties they must make up 100% of the wine and appear in descending order.

Vintage - at least 85% of the wine must come from the stated year.

12. Optional terms relating to production methods

Certain traditional terms are used to convey how a sparkling wine has been produced and/or aged. These terms are optional but they may only be used if the relevant conditions are met. The full details are set out in Article 66 and Annex XVI of Regulation 607/2009.

If you are uncertain whether you can use a particular expression please contact your Regional Wine Inspector for advice.

Use of wood

The indications barrel fermented, barrel matured, barrel aged, cask fermented cask matured, cask aged are the only terms which may be used to describe a wine with protected designations of origin or geographical indications or with a geographical indication of a third country that has been fermented, matured or aged in a wood container. However, the use of these expressions is not permitted where the wine has been produced with the aid of oak chips, even if wooden containers have also been used.

'bottle-fermented'

May be used only to describe sparkling wines with a protected designation of origin or a geographical indication of a third country or quality sparkling wines provided that:

- (a) the product was made sparkling by a second alcoholic fermentation in a bottle;
- (b) the length of the production process, including ageing in the under- taking

where the product was made, calculated from the start of the fermentation process designed to make the cuvée sparkling, has not been less than nine months;

- (c) the process of fermentation designed to make the cuvée sparkling and the presence of the cuvée on the lees lasted at least 90 days; and
- (d) the product was separated from the lees by filtering in accordance with the racking method or by disgorging.

'bottle-fermented by the traditional method' or 'traditional method' or 'classical method' or 'classical traditional method'

May be used only to describe sparkling wines with protected designations of origin or with a geographical indication of a third country or quality sparkling wines provided the product:

- (a) was made sparkling by a second alcoholic fermentation in the bottle;
- (b) stayed without interruption in contact with the lees for at least nine months in the same undertaking from the time when the cuvée was constituted;
- (c) was separated from the lees by disgorging.

'Crémant'

May only be used for white or 'rosé' quality sparkling wines with protected designations of origin or with a geographical indication of a third country provided:

- (a) the grapes shall be harvested manually;
- (b) the wine is made from must obtained by pressing whole or destemmed grapes. The quantity of must obtained shall not exceed 100 litres for every 150 kg of grapes;
- (c) the maximum Sulphur Dioxide content does not exceed 150 mg/l;
- (d) the sugar content is less than 50 g/l;
- (e) the wine was made sparkling by a second alcoholic fermentation in the bottle, stayed without interruption in contact with the lees for at least nine months in the same undertaking from the time when the cuvée was constituted and was separated from the lees by disgorging.
- (f) The term 'Crémant' shall be indicated on labels of quality sparkling wines in combination with the name of the geographical unit underlying the demarcated area of the protected designation of origin or the a geographical indication of a third country in question.

Points (a) and (f) do not apply to producers who own trademarks containing the term 'crémant' registered before 1 March 1986.

REFERENCES

eBacchus website for protected geographical regions and traditional terms

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

Council Regulation (EU) No: 1308/2013

Commission Regulation (EC) No: 607/2009

Commission Regulation (EC) No: 606/2009

Council Regulation (EU) No: 1169/2011

REVIEW

The guidance will be reviewed in May 2020. If you wish to give comments on this guidance please email winestandards@food.gov.uk

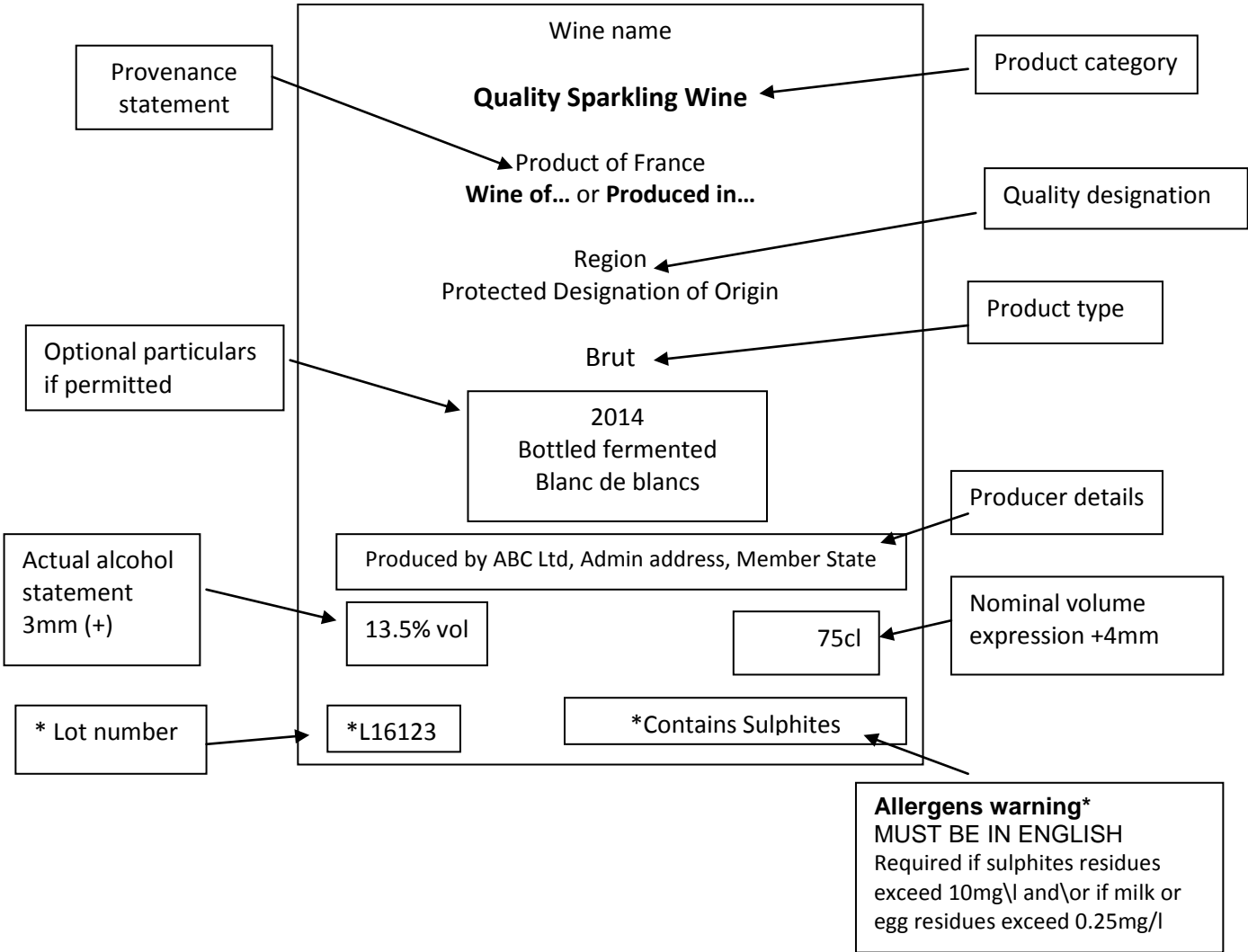
APPENDIX - example label layout

Note : All of the 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.

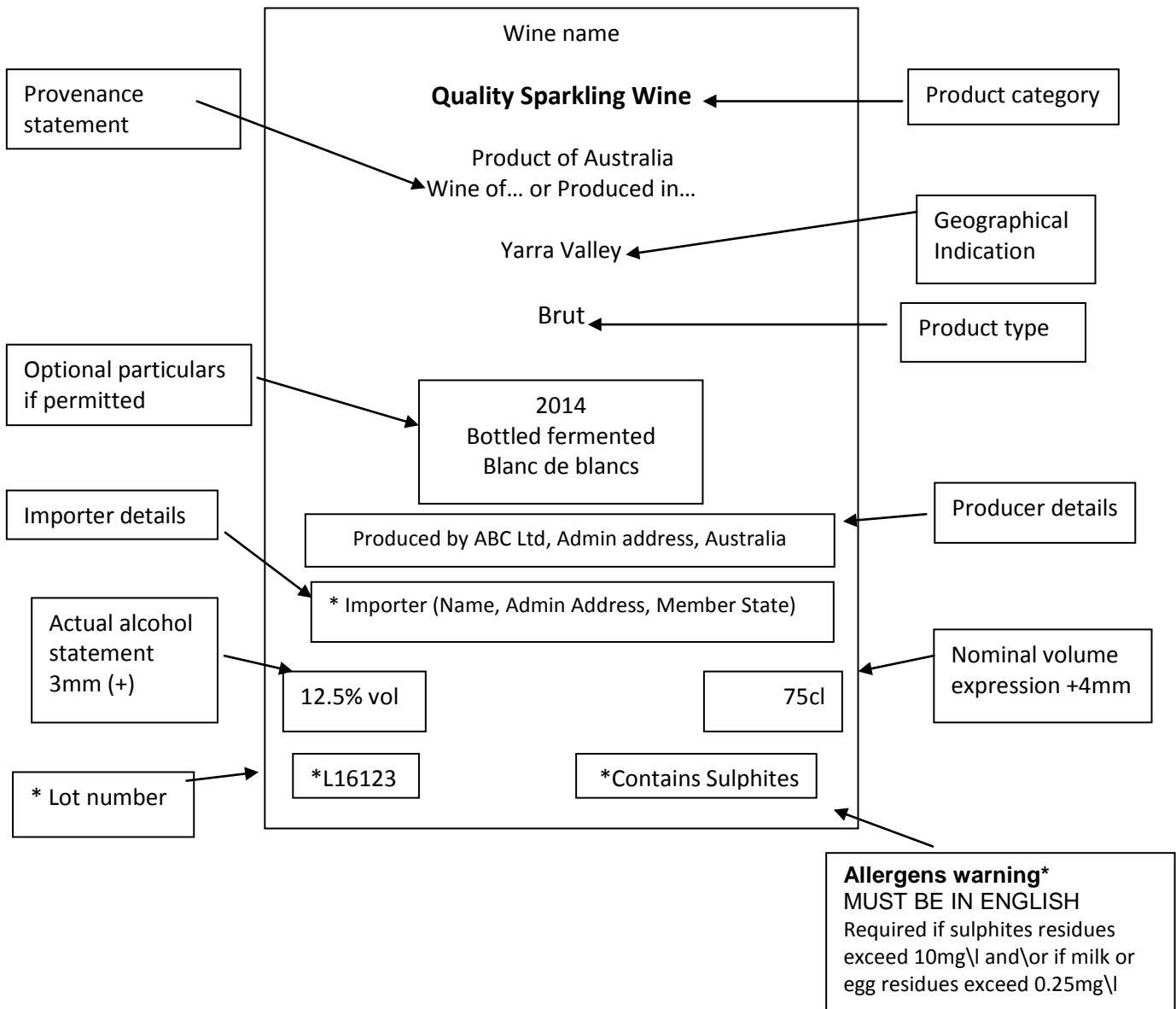
The following layout is only illustrative. Provided the compulsory and optional particulars are correctly displayed other label designs are permitted. Our Inspectors will be happy to advise you free of charge as to whether your label complies with the regulations. Please allow at least 20 working days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

EU Product



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

Non EU product



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