

Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau  
Advertising, Labeling and Formulation Division  
Wine Labeling Office  
1310 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20220

## Industry News

### Certification Requirements for Imported Wine

May 2008

**What is a certification?**

Certification is a statement that the practices and procedures used to produce the imported wine constitute proper cellar treatment. The certification requirement emanates from Section 2002 of the Miscellaneous Trade and Technical Corrections Act of 2004, which amended section 5382(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. Section 5382(a) sets forth standards regarding what constitutes proper cellar treatment of natural wine. The Act added new certification requirements regarding production practices and procedures for imported natural wine.

**How does certification impact me?**

If you import a natural wine produced after December 31, 2004, you must have the required certification for the wine.

**Is there any imported natural wine not subject to certification?**

Yes. Because of enological practices agreements with the U.S.—

- Grape wine containing 7 to 22 percent alcohol by volume from Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, and New Zealand; and
- Grape wine containing 0.5 to 22 percent alcohol by volume from Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands, and the United Kingdom are not subject to certification.

**Is there a certification form?**

There is no TTB certification form; however, the format for certification is available on the Wine pages of [www.TTB.gov](http://www.TTB.gov). Click on the “Certification of Imported Wines” link to find the [Recommended Certification Format](#).

**What do I do with the certification(s)?**

Certificates sent in after you've received label approval must be sent to:

Director, Knowledge Management Staff  
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau  
1310 G Street NW., Suite 200E  
Attention: Wine Certification Docket  
Washington, DC 20220

Or you may e-mail the certificates to: [winecertificationdocket@ttb.gov](mailto:winecertificationdocket@ttb.gov)

Or fax the certification to: 202-435-7113

We encourage you to read more about the certification by viewing our [Q&As](#) on the Certification Requirements for Imported Wine page on TTB.gov; or contact Gail Davis at 202-927-8110 or [itd@ttb.gov](mailto:itd@ttb.gov).