

§ 4.25 Appellations of origin.

(a) *Definition*—(1) *American wine*. An American appellation of origin is: (i) The United States; (ii) a State; (iii) two or no more than three States which are all contiguous; (iv) a county (which must be identified with the word “county”, in the same size of type, and in letters as conspicuous as the name of the county); (v) two or no more than three counties in the same States; or (vi) a viticultural area (as defined in paragraph (e) of this section).

(2) *Imported wine*. An appellation of origin for imported wine is: (i) A country, (ii) a state, province, territory, or similar political subdivision of a country equivalent to a state or county; or (iii) a viticultural area.

(b) *Qualification*—(1) *American wine*. An American wine is entitled to an appellation of origin other than a multi-county or multistate appellation, or a viticultural area, if:

(i) At least 75 percent of the wine is derived from fruit or agricultural products grown in the appellation area indicated; (ii) it has been fully finished (except for cellar treatment pursuant to § 4.22(c), and blending which does not result in an alteration of class or type under § 4.22(b)) in the United States, if labeled “American”; or, if labeled with a State appellation, within the labeled State or an adjacent State; or if labeled with a county appellation, within the State in which the labeled county is located; and (iii) it conforms to the laws and regulations of the named appellation area governing the composition, method of manufacture, and designation of wines made in such place.

(2) *Imported wine*. An imported wine is entitled to an appellation of origin other than a viticultural area if:

(i) At least 75 percent of the wine is derived from fruit or agricultural products grown in the area indicated by the appellation of origin; and (ii) The wine conforms to the requirements of the foreign laws and regulations governing the composition, method of production, and designation of wines available for consumption within the country of origin.

(c) *Multicounty appellations*. An appellation of origin comprising two or no more than three counties in the same State may be used if all of the fruit or

other agricultural products were grown in the counties indicated, and the percentage of the wine derived from fruit or other agricultural products grown in each county is shown on the label with a tolerance of plus or minus two percent.

(d) *Multistate appellation*. An appellation of origin comprising two or no more than three States which are all contiguous may be used, if:

(1) All of the fruit or other agricultural products were grown in the States indicated, and the percentage of the wine derived from fruit or other agricultural products grown in each State is shown on the label with a tolerance of plus or minus two percent;

(2) it has been fully finished (except for cellar treatment pursuant to § 4.22(c), and blending which does not result in an alteration of class or type under § 4.22(b)) in one of the labeled appellation States; (3) it conforms to the laws and regulations governing the composition, method of manufacture, and designation of wines in all the States listed in the appellation.

(e) *Viticultural area*—(1) *Definition*—(i) *American wine*. A delimited grape growing region distinguishable by geographical features, the boundaries of which have been recognized and defined in part 9 of this chapter.

(ii) *Imported wine*. A delimited place or region (other than an appellation defined in paragraph (a)(2)(i) or (a)(2)(ii)) the boundaries of which have been recognized and defined by the country of origin for use on labels of wine available for consumption within the country of origin.

(2) *Establishment of American viticultural areas*. Petitions for establishment of American viticultural areas may be made to the Director by any interested party, pursuant to the provisions of § 70.701(c) of this title. The petition may be in the form of a letter, and should contain the following information referred to in § 9.3(b) of this title.

(3) *Requirements for use*. A wine may be labeled with a viticultural area appellation if:

(i) The appellation has been approved under part 9 of this title or by the appropriate foreign government;

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(ii) Not less than 85 percent of the wine is derived from grapes grown within the boundaries of the viticultural area;

(iii) In the case of foreign wine, it conforms to the requirements of the foreign laws and regulations governing the composition, method of production, and designation of wines available for consumption within the country of origin; and

(iv) In the case of American wine, it has been fully finished within the State, or one of the States, within which the labeled viticultural area is located (except for cellar treatment pursuant to § 4.22(c), and blending which does not result in an alteration of class and type under § 4.22(b)).

(4) *Overlap viticultural area appellations.* An appellation of origin comprised of more than one viticultural area may be used in the case of overlapping viticultural areas if not less than 85 percent of the volume of the wine is derived from grapes grown in the overlapping area.

[T.D. ATF-53, 43 FR 37675, Aug. 23, 1978, as amended by T.D. ATF-84, 46 FR 29261, June 1, 1981; T.D. ATF-92, 46 FR 46912, Sept. 23, 1981; T.D. ATF-195, 50 FR 763, Jan. 7, 1985; T.D. ATF-201, 50 FR 12533, Mar. 29, 1985; T.D. ATF-222, 51 FR 3774, Jan. 30 1986; T.D. ATF-312, 56 FR 31076, July 9, 1991; T.D. ATF-355, 59 FR 14553, Mar. 29, 1994; T.D. ATF-432, 65 FR 69253, Nov. 16, 2000. Redesignated by T.T.B. T.D.-2, 68 FR 39455, July 2, 2003]

§ 4.26 Estate bottled.

(a) *Conditions for use.* The term *Estate bottled* may be used by a bottling winery on a wine label only if the wine is labeled with a viticultural area appellation of origin and the bottling winery:

(1) Is located in the labeled viticultural area; (2) grew all of the grapes used to make the wine on land owned or controlled by the winery within the boundaries of the labeled viticultural area; (3) crushed the grapes, fermented the resulting must, and finished, aged, and bottled the wine in a continuous process (the wine at no time having left the premises of the bottling winery).

(b) *Special rule for cooperatives.* Grapes grown by members of a cooperative bottling winery are considered grown by the bottling winery.

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(c) *Definition of "Controlled".* For purposes of this section, *Controlled* by refers to property on which the bottling winery has the legal right to perform, and does perform, all of the acts common to viticulture under the terms of a lease or similar agreement of at least 3 years duration.

(d) *Use of other terms.* No term other than *Estate bottled* may be used on a label to indicate combined growing and bottling conditions.

[T.D. ATF-53, 43 FR 37676, Aug. 23, 1978, as amended by T.D. ATF-201, 50 FR 12533, Mar. 29, 1985]

§ 4.27 Vintage wine.

(a) *General.* Vintage wine is wine labeled with the year of harvest of the grapes and made in accordance with the standards prescribed in classes 1, 2, or 3 of § 4.21. At least 95 percent of the wine must have been derived from grapes harvested in the labeled calendar year, and the wine must be labeled with an appellation of origin other than a country (which does not qualify for vintage labeling). The appellation shall be shown in direct conjunction with the designation required by § 4.32(a)(2), in lettering substantially as conspicuous as that designation. In no event may the quantity of wine removed from the producing winery, under labels bearing a vintage date, exceed the volume of vintage wine produced in that winery during the year indicated by the vintage date.

(b) *American wine.* A permittee who produced and bottled or packed the wine, or a person other than the producer who repackaged the wine in containers of 5 liters (or 1-gallon before January 1, 1979) or less may show the year of vintage upon the label if the person possesses appropriate records from the producer substantiating the year of vintage and the appellation of origin; and if the wine is made in compliance with the provisions of paragraph (a) of this section.

(c) *Imported wine.* Imported wine may bear a vintage date if: (1) It is made in compliance with the provisions of paragraph (a) of this section; (2) it is bottled in containers of 5 liters (or 1-gallon before January 1, 1979) or less prior to importation, or bottled in the