No. 1544

MINISTRY FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND ANIMAL RIGHTS

Explanatory Notes

1. Introduction

Title of the Legal Notice	Classification of Vine Varieties (Production of Wine Grapes) (Amendment) Regulations, 2024 hereinafter referred to as the "regulations"
Activity to be regulated	The classification, cultivation of vine varieties and grapes for local wine production, including minimum conditions and characteristics of wine grapes
Responsible entity	Directorate of Agriculture

2. Summary and Background

The initiative to amend S.L. 436.03 has been taken by the Directorate of Agriculture following requests by producers in the Wine Regulation Board. The proposed amendments were presented and approved by all members in the Wine Regulation Board.

The proposed amendments are required to update information and terms which are outdated. These include:

- The removal of certain vine varieties from the classification of suitable varieties for the production of wine.
- The amendment of terms in relation to Maltese wine Geographic Indications.

Where reference is made to EU Regulations, amendments were also made to refer to the latest measures laid down at EU level.

The amendments were discussed by internal and external stakeholders in the Technical Sub-Committee and approved by the Wine Regulation Board.

3. Overview of the structure of the instrument

The regulations are made up of six (6) regulations and consist of the following:

1. Citation and commencement.
2. Amends regulation 1 of the principal regulations.
3. Amends regulation 4 of the principal regulations.
4. Amends regulation 5 of the principal regulations.
5. Amends regulation 9 of the principal regulations.
6. Substitutes Schedule I to the principal regulations.

4. Commentary on regulations

Regulation 2: Amends regulation 1 of the principal regulations to make the correct reference to EU regulations.

Regulation 3: Substitutes sub-regulation (1) of regulation 4 of the principal regulations. It provides classifications for the purpose of cultivation for the vine variety for the production of table wine, wine spirit and grapes intended for drying.

Regulation 4: Substitutes paragraph (a) of regulation 5 of the principal regulations in order to make reference to the correct and newer terms that refers to wines with a protected designation of origin, wines with a protected geographical indication and the addition of varietal wines without a protected designation of origin or protected geographical indication.

Regulation 5: Amends regulation 9 of the principal regulations to change reference to the correct EU Regulation.

Regulation 6: Substitutes the Schedule to the principal regulations as certain vine varities have been removed and to amend the classification of others.

5. Concluding Section

These regulations shall come into force within two (2) months from their publication in the Gazette.

For further information please contact:

NVOC - Directorate of Agriculture
National Viticulture & Oenology centre, Triq il-Vitikulturisti, Dingli, Malta
Tel: 22924555/22924550
Email: (winehub.mafa@gov.mt)/(jessamine.agius@gov.mt)

N.B. These Explanatory Notes are not intended to be an exhaustive description of the legal instrument nor a substitute thereof or a legislative supplement thereto. These Notes do not purport to be an authoritative ruling on the interpretation of the legislation.

8th November, 2024

User Guidelines

1. The Subsidiary Legislation 436.03, provide rules concerning varieties suitable for the production of wine in Malta. The regulations lay down provisions concerning the classification, cultivation of vine varieties and grapes for local wine production, including minimum conditions and characteristics of wine grapes.

2. This Subsidiary Legislation is mainly targeted to the local vine growers and wine producers with the purpose of cultivating vine varieties to produce wine grapes.

3. Subsidiary Legislation 436.03 lays down rules for the classification of vine varieties for the production of wine grapes. The Legislation states how the vine varieties to produce wine are classified and identified.

Furthermore, this legislation lays down obligations in relation to vine species used, vine varieties, grafting and planted areas. The Classes of vine varieties are identified and explained as Suitable Varieties, recommended and varieties under observations. These classes may be found in the form of a list in Schedule I together with the list of vine varieties.

This Subsidiary Legislation lays down the procedure for the recognition of new varieties in the classification of vine varieties for the production of wine grapes. Additional rules regarding the use of variety name on the wine label.

4. The amendments to S.L.436.03 are being proposed to amend certain terms and information which have become outdated over the years. Further amendments are also required to ensure that the National Regulations are in accordance with relevant EU Regulations.

Additionally, these regulations shall amend the Classification of Vine Varities (Production of Wine Grapes) by removing certain vine varities and amending the classification of others.

Schedule I of the principal regulations shall be amended as follows:

- Section 15 relating to the variety "Fiano aromatico" shall be deleted;
- Section 16 relating to the variety "Ġellewża" classification shall be amended from "OB" to SR";
- Section 17 relating to the variety "Girgentina" classification shall be amended from "OB" to SR":
- Section 35 relating to the variety "Moscato fior d'arancio" shall be deleted; and
- Section 26 relating to the Variety "Malbec" classification shall be amended from "Ob" to "S" .

5. The Agricultural Directorate is the competent office responsible for setting up and regulating the production of wine grapes and wines. Stakeholders and the general public may communicate with the Directorate by contacting the National Viticulture and Oenology Centre within the Agricultural Directorate on 22924500 / 23397253.

6. NVOC - Agriculture Directorate

National Vitivulture; Oenology centre, triq il-Vitikulturisti Dingli, Malta
Tel: 22924550/22924555
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N.B. These guidelines are intended for guidance purposes only and compliance is required by the regulations as published.