

Importing and exporting prohibited or controlled goods

Do you, or do you act on behalf of someone, that imports and/or exports controlled goods that require a border permit or a licence?: No

Finding information about permits or licences

How do you usually find information about border permits or licences?: Through regulatory authority for wine - Wine Australia

Border permit and licence processes

What has been your experience with applying for border permits or licences to import/export controlled goods? Please use specific examples.: Australian Wine Regulatory Systems The Australian wine industry has operated under a robust regulatory system for many years and is one of the most highly regulated agricultural commodities in Australia. This system was imposed at the request of industry to ensure confidence in the authenticity and integrity of Australian wine both domestically and exported. A robust and enforceable compliance regime is essential for supporting the sector's promotional efforts. While unnecessary regulation can create a negative business impact, the wine regulatory system has and continues to be an essential pillar of the sectors success. Over the years, this system has continuously improved to become highly sophisticated and integral part of Australian wine industry. Wine Australia Regulations 2018, which govern the sectors regulatory system, are enforced by Wine Australia. Following a review of the regulations in 2018 they were updated to extend wine Australia's powers of enforcement and allow for a number of alterations seeking to cut red tape for exporters. Wine Export Approvals System In addition to the recently update regulations, Wine Australia's Labelling and Approval System (WALAS) is undergoing an extensive upgrade. This is due to 'go' live by July 2019. This update will automate the export approvals process, remove paper based forms and allowed for a single online platforms for the whole approvals process. The system links to Home Affairs systems to provide a unique algorithm which confirms licensing and labelling approvals in preparation for final shipping approval.

Improving the border permits framework

What suggestions do you have for improving the regulatory framework for border permits and licences?: Label approvals and shipping One area of potential improvement which could help to improve the strength and integrity of the system, relates to the linkage between labelling approvals and shipping. In certain circumstances exporters are required to provide images of the product labels being exported, to Wine Australia through the labelling approvals process. The intention here is to verify that the label adheres to the information which is being provided through WALAS. The gap however is that there is no verification or audit which takes place, that shows that the label provided during approval process is the label which is on the bottle at time of shipped. This means that, it could be possible for an exporter to provide an image which complies with their labelling requirements and affix a different label before the product is shipped. A potential resolution to this challenge is collaboration between Wine Australia and Australian Customs official to ensure that labels which are submitted are the same as those which are finally affixed to the product leaving Australia. A simple process of collaboration between the two bodies and perhaps random auditing/checks of labels at shipping would easily close this gap.

Is there anything else you'd like to share?

Do you have any other comments you would like to provide regarding the Review?: Australian Grape & Wine is a strong advocate for regulatory harmonisation and working bilaterally to remove barriers to trade. While these elements relate less to Australia's import export requirements, they

are a key aspect of removing red tape for Australian exporters. For example, Australian wines current most significant trading partner is China, which has some import requirements that present ongoing issues for Australian wine producers. Australian wine exporters are required to provide two hard copy certificates which have been signed/stamped by the competent authority. If any of the information on these forms is in any way different to the information provided, products are often rejected. To this end we would strongly encourage the Australian Government to focus attentions and effort on developing bilateral agreements which seek to harmonising requirements and coordination of systems and processes with our trading partners. The existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) relating to trade in wine between China (AQSIQ) and Australia (Wine Australia) is a good basis for future collaborative work with Chinese regulatory authorities. He MOU requires re-negotiation following the recent regulatory changes within China and we encourage government to consider reinvigorating this agreement in future trade work with China. Similarly, the Australian Trusted Trader program is an avenue, which Australian Grape & Wine believes holds significant potential to improve trade though removal of unnecessary red tape. We encourage ongoing effort and investment form the Australian Government in the program and the completion and expansion of the Mutual Recognition Arrangements to as many significant trading partners as possible..

Tell us about yourself

First name: Tony

Last name: Battaglione

Organisation name (if applicable): Australian Grape & Wine

Who is your submission on behalf of?: Industry (e.g. peak body, industry association)

What is your business/company size?: Small (0-19 employees)

What is your industry?: Agriculture, forestry and fishing

What state/territory are you or your offices located in?: Australian Capital Territory; South Australia