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European Union

Wine

EU Approves US Wine Derogations

2003

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Report Highlights:

On December 17, 2003, the EU Agriculture Council approved a two-year extension to the US derogation on wine-making practices. Two additional derogations on labeling and documentation were also extended by the Wine Management Committee on December 10th.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Brussels USEU [BE2]
[E2]

On December 17, 2003, the EU Agriculture Council approved an extension to the derogation allowing US wines made with certain practices that are not approved in the EU to continue to be exported to the EU. This derogation was set to expire on December 31, 2003. The derogation has been extended for two years or until the conclusion of a US-EU wine agreement. Negotiations on a wine agreement between the US and the EU are ongoing.

On December 10, 2003, the EU Wine Management Committee extended two additional derogations, which were also set to expire. The first relates to a provision allowing US wines exported to the EU to mention the State or wine-growing region on the label as long as 75% of the grapes were harvested in that region and all of the grapes were harvested in the US. The second also affects Australia and relates to the use of a simplified "VI1" form which must accompany shipments of wine to the EU. While the Wine Management Committee initially approved the two extensions for one year only, it is expected that these extensions will be changed to two years in line with the extension for wine-making practices approved by the Agriculture Council.

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