

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/273 of 11 December 2017 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the scheme of authorisations for vine plantings, the vineyard register, accompanying documents and certification, the inward and outward register, compulsory declarations, notifications and publication of notified information, and supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the relevant checks and penalties, amending Commission Regulations (EC) No 555/2008, (EC) No 606/2009 and (EC) No 607/2009 and repealing Commission Regulation (EC) No 436/2009 and Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/560

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS

#### *Article 1*

##### **Subject matter**

This Regulation lays down rules supplementing Regulations (EU) No 1306/2013 and (EU) No 1308/2013, respectively, as regards:

- (a) the scheme of authorisations for vine plantings;
- (b) the vineyard register;
- (c) recognised accompanying documents, certification and rules for imports of wine;
- (d) the inward and outward register;
- (e) compulsory declarations;
- (f) checks and the analytical databank of isotopic data;
- (g) competent authorities and mutual assistance between them;
- (h) penalties;
- (i) notifications and publication of notified information.

#### *Article 2*

##### **Definitions**

1 For the purposes of this Regulation and Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/274, the following definitions shall apply:

- a ‘winegrower’ means a natural or legal person, or a group of natural or legal persons, whatever legal status is granted to the group and its members by national law, whose holding is situated within the Union territory, as defined in Article 52 of the Treaty on European Union in conjunction with Article 355 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and who holds an area planted with vines where the produce of this

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area is used for the commercial production of wine products, or the area benefits from the exemptions for experimental purposes or for graft nurseries referred to in Article 3(2) of this Regulation;

- b 'wine products' means the products listed in Part XII of Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, except wine vinegar falling within CN codes 2209 00 11 and 2209 00 19;
- c 'vineyard parcel' means an agricultural parcel as defined in Article 67(4)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 planted with vines either aimed at the commercial production of wine products or benefitting from the exemptions for experimental purposes or for graft nurseries referred to in Article 3(2) of this Regulation;
- d 'abandoned wine-growing area' means an area planted with vines which is no longer subject to regular cultivation with a view to obtaining a marketable product since more than five wine years, without prejudice to specific cases defined by the Member States, the grubbing up of which no longer entitles the producer to be granted a replanting authorisation in accordance with Article 66 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013;
- e 'harvester' means a natural or legal person or a group of such persons, whatever legal status is granted to the group and its members by national law, who gathers the harvest of grapes from an area planted with vines in order to market those grapes for the production of wine products by third parties, or to process them into wine products in his holding, or have them processed on his behalf, with commercial purposes;
- f 'processor' means a natural or legal person or a group of such persons, whatever legal status is granted to the group and its members by national law, by whom or on whose behalf the processing of wines is carried out, the result of which being wines, liqueur wines, sparkling and semi-sparkling wines, aerated sparkling and semi-sparkling wines, quality sparkling wines or quality aromatic sparkling wines;
- g 'retailer' means a natural or legal person or a group of such persons, whatever legal status is granted to the group and its members by national law, whose business activity includes the sale directly to the consumer of wine and must in small quantities, to be defined by each Member State, having regard to the special features of trade and distribution, but excluding persons who use cellars equipped for storing or facilities for bottling wine in large quantities, and those who engage in itinerant trading in wine transported in bulk;
- h 'bottling' means putting up wine as a final product for commercial purposes in containers of a capacity not exceeding 60 litres;
- i 'bottler' means a natural or legal person or a group of such persons, whatever legal status is granted to the group and its members by national law, carrying out bottling of wine or having bottling carried out on his behalf;
- j 'merchant' means a natural or legal person or a group of such persons, whatever legal status is granted to the group and its members by national law, other than private consumers or retailers, who holds stocks of wine products with commercial purposes or is involved in their trade and possibly also bottles them, except distilleries;
- k 'wine year' means the marketing year for the wine sector as referred to in Article 6(d) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013.

2 For the purposes of Chapters IV to VIII of this Regulation, with the exception of Article 47, and Chapters IV to VII of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/274, 'producer' means a natural or legal person or a group of such persons, whatever legal status is granted to the group and its members by national law, who processes himself fresh grapes, musts or new wine still in fermentation into wine or must with commercial purposes, or has them processed on his behalf.

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3 For the purposes of Article 10(1), ‘small producer’ means a producer who produces on average less than 1 000 hl of wine per wine year, based on the average annual production over at least three consecutive wine years.

Member States may decide that the definition of ‘small producer’ does not cover producers who buy fresh grapes, musts or new wine still in fermentation to process them into wine.

## CHAPTER II

### SCHEME OF AUTHORISATIONS FOR VINE PLANTINGS

#### Article 3

##### **Areas exempted from the scheme of authorisations for vine plantings**

1 The scheme of authorisations for vine plantings laid down in Chapter III of Title I of Part II of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 shall not apply to the planting or replanting of areas referred to in Article 62(4) of that Regulation fulfilling the relevant conditions set out in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of this Article.

2 The planting or replanting of areas intended for experimental purposes or for graft nurseries shall be subject to a prior notification to the competent authorities. The notification shall include all relevant information in respect of those areas and the period during which the experiment will take place or the period during which the graft nursery will be in production. Extensions of such periods shall also be notified to the competent authorities.

Where no risks of market disturbance are considered to exist, Member States may decide that during the periods referred to in the first subparagraph the grapes produced in those areas and the wine products obtained from those grapes may be marketed. At the end of such periods, the producer shall either:

- a obtain an authorisation in accordance with Article 64 or 68 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 for the area concerned, so that the grapes produced in that area and the wine products obtained from those grapes can be marketed; or
- b grub up such an area at his own cost in accordance with Article 71(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013.

Any areas intended for experiments or graft nurseries planted before 1 January 2016 following the granting of new planting rights shall continue to comply after that date with any conditions defined for the use of such rights until the end of the period of the experiment or the period of production of the graft nursery for which they were granted. After the expiry of such periods, the rules laid down in the first and second subparagraphs shall apply.

3 The planting or replanting of areas whose wine or vine products are intended solely for the consumption by the winegrower's household shall be subject to the following conditions:

- a such area does not exceed 0,1 ha;
- b the winegrower concerned is not involved in commercial wine production or in the commercial production of other wine products.

For the purposes of this paragraph, Member States may consider certain organisations without a commercial activity as equivalent to the winegrower's household.

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Member States may decide that the plantings referred to in the first subparagraph are subject to a notification.

4 A producer having lost a certain area planted with vines due to compulsory purchases in the public interest under national law shall be entitled to plant a new area provided that such newly planted area does not exceed 105 % in terms of pure crop of the area lost. The newly planted area shall be registered in the vineyard register.

5 The grubbing up of areas benefiting from the exemption referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 shall not give rise to an authorisation to replant under Article 66 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013. However, such authorisation shall be granted in the event of grubbing up of areas newly planted under the exemption referred to in paragraph 4.

#### Article 4

##### Criteria for granting authorisations

1 Where Member States apply the eligibility criterion laid down in Article 64(1)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, the rules set out in Section A of Annex I to this Regulation shall apply.

Member States may also apply the additional objective and non-discriminatory criterion that the application shall not pose a significant risk of misappropriation of the reputation of specific protected geographical indications, which shall be presumed unless the existence of such risk is demonstrated by the public authorities.

The rules in relation to the application of this additional criterion are laid down in Section B of Annex I.

2 Where Member States decide to apply one or more of the eligibility criteria referred to in Article 64(1)(a) to (c) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 and the additional criterion referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, in the granting of authorisations for new plantings, they may apply such criteria at national level or at a lower territorial level.

3 Where Member States apply one or more of the priority criteria listed in Article 64(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, the rules laid down in Sections A to H of Annex II to this Regulation shall apply.

Member States may also apply the additional objective and non-discriminatory criteria of the prior behaviour of the producer and non-profit organisations with a social purpose that have received lands confiscated in cases of terrorism and other types of crime. The rules in relation to the application of these additional criteria are laid down in Section I of Annex II.

4 Where Member States decide to apply one or more of the priority criteria referred to in Article 64(2)(a) to (h) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 and the additional criteria provided for in paragraph 3 of this Article, in the granting of authorisations for new plantings, they may apply such criteria uniformly at national level or with varying degrees of importance in different areas of the Member States.

5 The use of one or more of the criteria listed in Article 64(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 as eligibility criteria at one of the geographical levels mentioned in Article 63(2) shall be considered duly justified for the purposes of point (d) of paragraph 1 of Article 64 of that Regulation if the use aims at addressing a specific problem affecting the wine growing sector at that specific geographic level which can only be addressed by such a restriction.

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6 Without prejudice to the rules laid down in Annexes I and II with regard to specific eligibility and priority criteria, Member States shall adopt additional measures, where necessary, to avoid that applicants of authorisations circumvent the eligibility and priority criteria included in those Annexes.

#### *Article 5*

### **Authorisations for anticipated replanting**

Member States may make the granting of an authorisation to a producer undertaking to grub up an area planted with vines in accordance with Article 66(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 subject to the requirement to lodge a security.

In any case, if the grubbing up is not carried out by the producers by the end of the fourth year from the date on which new vines were planted, Article 71 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 shall apply in respect of the pledged area which has not been grubbed up.

#### *Article 6*

### **Replanting restrictions**

Member States may restrict the replantings on the basis of Article 66(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, where the specific area to be replanted is located in an area for which the issuing of authorisations for new plantings is limited in accordance with Article 63(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 and provided that the decision is justified by the need to avoid a well-demonstrated risk of significant devaluation of a specific protected designation of origin ('PDO') or protected geographical indication ('PGI').

The risk of significant devaluation referred to in the first paragraph does not exist if:

- (a) the specific area to be replanted is located in the same PDO or PGI area as the area grubbed up and the replanting of vines complies with the same PDO or PGI specification as the area grubbed up;
- (b) the replanting is aimed at the production of wines without a geographical indication provided that the applicant undertakes the same commitments as those laid down in point (2) of Sections A and B of Annex I to this Regulation in relation to new plantings.

## CHAPTER III

### **VINEYARD REGISTER**

#### *Article 7*

### **Minimum information contained in the vineyard register**

1 For the purposes of Article 145(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, in Member States which implement the scheme of authorisations for vine plantings, the updated information contained in the vineyard register shall include at least the details and specifications set out in Annexes III and IV to this Regulation in relation to each winegrower.

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2 For the purposes of Article 145(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, in Member States which do not implement the scheme of authorisations for vine plantings but which implement national support programmes for restructuring or conversion of vineyards, the updated information contained in the vineyard register shall include at least the simplified details and specifications set out in Annex III to this Regulation.

## CHAPTER IV

### ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS AND RULES FOR IMPORTS OF WINE PRODUCTS

#### SECTION I

#### ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS FOR MONITORING AND CERTIFICATION OF WINE PRODUCTS

##### Article 8

##### General rules

1 For the purposes of Article 147(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, each transport operation of wine products carried out between winegrowers, harvesters, producers, processors, bottlers or merchants, or from them to retailers, shall be covered by an accompanying document.

The operators referred to in the first subparagraph shall be able to present the accompanying document to the competent authorities throughout the transport operation.

2 The accompanying document may only be used for a single consignment.

3 Member States shall draw up and keep up-to-date a list of the operators referred to in this Article. Where such a list or register already exists for other purposes, it may also be used for the purposes of this Regulation.

##### Article 9

##### Exemptions

1 By way of derogation from **Article 8**, no accompanying document shall be required in the following cases:

- a wine products transported from the vineyard to the winemaking premises, between two premises of the same undertaking or between the premises belonging to a group of producers, without change of the owner, provided that the transport is effected for the purpose of winemaking, processing, storage or bottling, the total road distance does not exceed 70 km and the transport takes place exclusively within the territory of a single Member State or has been approved by the competent authorities of the Member States concerned;
- b grape marc and wine lees:
  - (i) transported to a distillery or a vinegar production plant, where the product is accompanied by a delivery note of the producer under the conditions laid

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- down by the competent authorities of the Member State where the transport begins, or
- (ii) where the transport is effected for the purpose of withdrawing the product from the winemaking process or from any other processing of grapes under supervision by the competent authorities, as provided for in Articles 14(1)(b) (vii) and 18(2) of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/274;
- c grape juice and must falling within CN codes 2009 61 and 2009 69 delivered to operators not involved in winemaking, where the product is accompanied by a commercial document;
  - d wine products produced and transported exclusively within the territory of Member States that are not subject to the obligation to maintain a vineyard register in accordance with Article 145(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013;
  - e the following cases of wine products transported exclusively within the territory of a Member State in containers of a nominal volume of not more than 60 litres:
    - (i) wine products in labelled containers of a nominal volume of 10 litres or less fitted with a non-reusable closing device, where the total quantity does not exceed:
      - 5 litres or 5 kilograms in the case of concentrated grape must, whether or not rectified,
      - 100 litres for all other products;
    - (ii) wine or grape juice intended for diplomatic representations, consulates and similar establishments, within the limits of the allowances granted them;
    - (iii) wine or grape juice:
      - contained in private household removals, and not intended for sale,
      - on board ships, airplanes or trains to be consumed there;
    - (iv) wine, partially fermented wine, partially fermented grape must and grape must transported by private individuals and intended for the personal consumption of the consignee or the consignee's family, where the quantity transported does not exceed 30 litres;
    - (v) any product intended for scientific or technical experiments, where the total quantity transported does not exceed one hectolitre;
    - (vi) commercial samples;
    - (vii) samples for a competent authority or designated laboratory.

2 Where an accompanying document is not required, consignors shall be able at any time to prove the accuracy of all the information recorded in their inward and outward register provided for in Chapter V or other registers required by the Member State where the transport operation begun.

### *Article 10*

#### **Recognised accompanying documents**

1 Competent authorities shall recognise the following documents as accompanying documents, provided that they comply with the conditions laid down in paragraphs 2 to 5 and in Annex V:

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- a for the wine products dispatched within a Member State or among Member States, without prejudice to point (b) of this subparagraph:
- (i) one of the documents referred to in Article 21(6) or Article 26(1)(a) of Directive 2008/118/EC for products transported under duty suspension arrangements within the Union, provided that it states in a clearly identifiable manner the unique administrative reference code referred to in Article 21(3) of that Directive ('ARC number'), it is drawn up in accordance with Commission Regulation (EC) No 684/2009<sup>(1)</sup> and, where the document referred to in Article 26(1)(a) of Directive 2008/118/EC is used, the consignor complies with that paragraph 1;
  - (ii) for excise goods transported within the Union, after release for consumption in the Member State where the transport operation began, the simplified accompanying document referred to in Article 34(1) of Directive 2008/118/EC, drawn up and used in accordance with Commission Regulation (EEC) No 3649/92<sup>(2)</sup>;
  - (iii) for wine products subject to excise duty dispatched by small producers pursuant to Article 40 of Directive 2008/118/EC and for wine products not subject to excise duty, one of the following documents, drawn up under the conditions laid down by the Member State of dispatch:
    - where the Member State uses an information system, a printed copy of the electronic administrative document thus established or any commercial document stating, in a clearly identifiable manner, the specific administrative code ('MVV code') assigned to the electronic administrative document by that system, provided that the document is established in compliance with the applicable national rules,
    - where the Member State does not use an information system, an administrative document or a commercial document bearing the MVV code assigned by the competent authority, provided that the document and a copy thereof are validated in accordance with paragraph 3 of this Article;
- b for wine products dispatched to a third country or to a territory referred to in Article 5(2) and (3) of Directive 2008/118/EC, one of the documents referred to in point (a) (i) or (iii).

The documents referred to in the second indent of point (a)(iii) of the first subparagraph may be used only until 31 December 2020.

2 The documents referred to in point (a) of the first subparagraph of paragraph 1 shall include the information indicated in Section A of Annex V, or allow the competent authorities to have access to that information.

Where those documents bear an ARC number assigned by the computerised system referred to in Article 21(2) of Directive 2008/118/EC or a MVV code assigned by the information system set up by the Member State of dispatch as referred to in the first indent of point (a)(iii) of the first subparagraph of paragraph 1, the information referred to in Section A of Annex V to this Regulation shall be held in the system used.

3 The documents referred to in the second indent of point (a)(iii) of the first subparagraph of paragraph 1 and a copy thereof shall be validated prior to dispatch:



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- a by the date, the signature of an official of the competent authority and the stamp affixed by that official; or
- b by the date, the signature of the consignor and the affixing by the consignor, as appropriate:
  - (i) of a special stamp in accordance with the model referred to in Section C of Annex V;
  - (ii) of a stamp prescribed by the competent authorities, or
  - (iii) of a mark of a stamping machine approved by the competent authorities.

The special stamp or the prescribed stamp referred to in point (b) may be pre-printed on the forms where printing is carried out by a printer approved for that purpose.

4 In the case of wine products imported from a third country, the documents referred to in point (a) of the first subparagraph of paragraph 1 shall make reference to the certificate drawn up in the country of origin in accordance with Article 20.

5 By way of derogation from paragraph 1, Member States may recognise other documents as accompanying documents, including documents produced using a computerised procedure intended to simplify the procedure with regard to the transport of wine products carried out exclusively on their territory and when directly exported from their territory.

#### *Article 11*

### **Certification of the origin or provenance, characteristics, vintage or wine grape variety and PDO or PGI**

1 The documents referred to in point (a)(i) and (iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 10(1) shall be regarded as certifying the origin or provenance, quality and characteristics of the wine product, the vintage year or the grape variety or varieties from which it is produced and, where applicable, the PDO or PGI. To this effect, the consignor or an authorised person acting on behalf of the consignor shall fill in in box 17l of those documents the relevant information set out in Part I of Annex VI.

2 The consignor shall certify the accuracy of the information required pursuant to paragraph 1 on the basis of the inward and outward register to be kept in accordance with Chapter V or the certified information in the documents accompanying the previous consignments of the product in question and official conformity checks carried out by the competent authorities in accordance with Chapter VII.

3 Where, in respect of wine products produced in their territory, Member States require a PDO or PGI certificate to be drawn up by a control body designated for that purpose, the accompanying document shall include a reference to that certificate, the name and, where applicable, the electronic address of the control body.

#### *Article 12*

### **Certification of exported wine products**

1 Whenever the competent authorities of the third country of destination require a certification as referred to in Article 11 for wine products dispatched to that third country, that certification shall take one of the following forms:

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- a the electronic administrative document or any other commercial document used in accordance with Article 21(6) of Directive 2008/118/EC or a document as referred to in Article 10(1)(a)(iii) of this Regulation, provided that the consignor or an authorised person acting on behalf of the consignor indicates the relevant information set out in Part I of Annex VI to this Regulation;
  - b a specific certificate for export drawn up on the basis of the template provided for and the requirements set out in Part II of Annex VI to this Regulation.
- 2 The certificate referred to in point (b) of paragraph 1 shall be deemed to be authentic when validated by the date and the signature of the consignor or an authorised person acting on behalf of the consignor and when the ARC number or MVV code assigned by the competent authority to the accompanying document has been indicated by the consignor on the certificate as administrative reference.
- 3 Article 11(2) and (3) shall apply mutatis mutandis to the certification referred to in paragraph 1.

### Article 13

#### Documents used as proof of export

1 Where the wine products circulate under cover of a document referred to in point (a) (i) of the first subparagraph of Article 10(1), proof of exit from the customs territory of the Union shall be constituted by the report of export referred to in Article 28 of Directive 2008/118/EC, drawn up by the customs office of export in accordance with Article 334 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/2447<sup>(3)</sup>.

2 Where the wine products circulate under cover of a document referred to in point (a) (iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 10(1), proof of exit from the customs territory of the Union shall be established in accordance with Article 334 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/2447. In that case, the consignor or an authorised person acting on behalf of the consignor shall record the reference of the export declaration referred to in Article 331 of that Regulation and issued by the customs office of export on the accompanying document, using one of the indications set out in Section D of Annex V to this Regulation.

3 Wine products which are temporarily exported under the outward processing arrangements provided for in Article 210(d) of Regulation (EU) No 952/2013 in accordance with Chapters I and V of Title VII of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/2446<sup>(4)</sup> and Chapter I of Title VII of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/2447 to one of the Member States of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) to undergo storage, ageing and/or packaging operations shall be accompanied, in addition to the accompanying document, by the information sheet laid down by the recommendation of the Customs Cooperation Council of 3 December 1963. That sheet shall show in the boxes reserved for the description of the product, the description in accordance with Union and national rules and the quantities of wine carried.

That information shall be taken from the original of the accompanying document under cover of which the wine was transported to the customs office where the information sheet is issued. The type, date and number of the document which accompanied the consignment previously shall also be noted on the information sheet.

Where the products referred to in the first subparagraph are being brought back into the customs territory of the Union, the information sheet shall be duly completed by the competent EFTA customs office. That document shall be regarded as equivalent to the accompanying document for transport as far as the customs office either of destination

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in the Union or of release for consumption, provided that the document contains, in the box 'Description of goods', the information specified in the first subparagraph.

The relevant customs office in the Union shall stamp a copy or photocopy of the document provided by the consignee or his representative and return it to him for the purposes of this Regulation.

#### Article 14

### Consignment of unpackaged wine products

1 Where the computerised system or information system referred to in the first indent of point (a)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 10(1) or in Article 10(5) is not used or where this system does not allow the competent authority at the place of unloading to be informed, the consignor of a consignment of unpackaged wine products shall forward, at the latest on the departure of the means of transport, a copy of the accompanying document to the competent authority in the territory of which the place of loading is situated, in respect of the following products:

- a products originating in the Union, of a quantity of more than 60 litres:
  - (i) wine intended for processing into wines with a PDO or PGI, a varietal or vintage year wine, or intended for packaging to be marketed as such;
  - (ii) partially fermented grape must;
  - (iii) concentrated grape must, whether or not rectified;
  - (iv) fresh grape must with fermentation arrested by the addition of alcohol;
  - (v) grape juice;
  - (vi) concentrated grape juice;
- b products not originating in the Union, of a quantity of more than 60 litres:
  - (i) fresh grapes, excluding table grapes;
  - (ii) grape must;
  - (iii) concentrated grape must, whether or not rectified;
  - (iv) partially fermented grape must;
  - (v) fresh grape must with fermentation arrested by the addition of alcohol;
  - (vi) grape juice;
  - (vii) concentrated grape juice;
  - (viii) liqueur wine for the preparation of products not falling within CN code 2204;
- c products, irrespective of their origin and the quantity transported, without prejudice to the exemptions referred to in Article 9:
  - (i) wine lees;
  - (ii) grape marc intended for distillation or another form of industrial processing;
  - (iii) piquette;

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- (iv) wine fortified for distillation;
- (v) wine from grapes of varieties not listed as wine-grape varieties in the classification drawn up by the Member States under Article 81 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 for the administrative unit in which they were harvested;
- (vi) products that may not be offered or supplied for direct human consumption.

The competent authority in the territory of which the place of loading is situated shall inform the competent authority in the territory of which the place of unloading is situated that the transport has begun.

2 By way of derogation from paragraph 1, Member States may fix different periods for forwarding a copy of the accompanying document with respect to consignments of wine products that are transported exclusively within their territory.

#### *Article 15*

### **Consignments of third country products or of Union products initially exported to a third country**

1 For the transport within the customs territory of the Union of a consignment of third country products released into free circulation, the accompanying document shall be based on the VI-1 document referred to in Article 20 or an equivalent document as referred to in Article 26 or 27 and shall include the following information or allow the competent authorities to have access to this information:

- a the number of the VI-1 document or the reference to one of the documents referred in Articles 26 and 27;
- b the name and address of the body of the third country which completed the document referred to in point (a) or authorised its completion by a producer;
- c the date on which the document referred to in point (a) was completed.

The operator shall be able to present the VI-1 document, an equivalent document as referred to in Article 26 or 27 or the VI-2 extract referred to in Article 22 whenever requested by the competent authorities of the Member States.

2 For the transport within the customs territory of the Union of a consignment of wine products originating within the Union, initially exported to a third country or a territory referred to in Article 5(2) and (3) of Directive 2008/118/EC, the accompanying document shall include the following information or allow the competent authorities to have access to this information:

- a the reference to the accompanying document referred to in point (b) of the first subparagraph of Article 10(1) of this Regulation, drawn up for the initial dispatch; or
- b the references to the other supporting documents produced by the importer evidencing the origin of the product and deemed satisfactory by the competent authority when released for circulation in the Union.

3 Where the computerised system referred to in Article 21(2) of Directive 2008/118/EC or an information system set up by the Member State of dispatch is used, the information indicated in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article shall be held in the system used.

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## Article 16

### **Refusal by the consignee**

Where all or part of a product transported under cover of an accompanying document is refused by the consignee, the latter shall write the words ‘refused by the consignee’ on the back of the document, together with the date and the consignee’s signature, plus, where appropriate, an indication of the quantity refused, in litres or kilograms.

In that case the product may be returned to the consignor under cover of the same accompanying document or may be kept on the premises of the carrier until a new document is completed to accompany the product when it is re-dispatched.

## Article 17

### **Validation of the accompanying document in case of a serious infringement or non-compliance**

1 Where a competent authority finds, or has a justified reason for suspecting, that a consignor transports or has transported a wine product which does not comply with the Union provisions, or national provisions adopted pursuant thereto, as regards its production conditions or its composition or a wine product in relation to which a serious infringement relating to the accompanying documents has been committed, it may require the consignor to complete a new accompanying document for that wine product and get it validated by the competent authority.

Validation, when granted, may be linked to conditions on the future use of the product or a ban on marketing the product. It shall comprise the stamp, the signature of an official of the competent authority and the date.

2 The authority referred in paragraph 1 shall inform the authority with territorial responsibility for the place of loading. In the case of transport within the Union, mutual assistance or notification of suspicion of non-compliance under Articles 43 and 45 shall apply.

## Article 18

### **Measures in case of infringements relating to the accompanying documents other than serious infringements**

1 Where a competent authority finds that a consignment requiring an accompanying document is being transported without such a document or under cover of a document containing erroneous or incomplete particulars, it shall take the measures necessary to regularise such transport, either by correcting any material errors or by completing a new document.

The authority referred to in the first subparagraph shall stamp the documents corrected or completed under that provision. Regularisation of irregularities must not delay the transport operation in question for longer than is strictly necessary.

In the event of repeated irregularities by the same consignor, the authority referred to in the first subparagraph of paragraph 1 shall inform the authority with territorial responsibility for the place of loading. In the case of transport within the Union, mutual assistance or notification of suspicion of non-compliance under Articles 43 and 45 shall apply.

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2 Where it is impossible to regularise transport operations pursuant to the first subparagraph of paragraph 1, the authority referred to in that subparagraph shall hold up the transport. It shall inform the consignor that the transport is being held up and of the measures taken as a consequence. Those measures may include a ban on marketing the product.

#### *Article 19*

#### **Force majeure or unforeseen incidents**

If during transport, by reason of *force majeure* or some unforeseen incident, a consignment for which an accompanying document is required must be split up or is wholly or partially lost, the carrier shall request the competent authority nearest to the place where the incident or the case of *force majeure* took place to make a statement of the facts and to take the necessary steps to regularise the transport operation in question.

### *SECTION II*

#### **ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS FOR RELEASE OF IMPORTED WINE PRODUCTS INTO FREE CIRCULATION**

#### *Article 20*

#### **Certification of compliance of imported wine products**

1 The accompanying document for the import of wine products shall comprise the certificate and the analysis report referred to in Article 90(3)(a) and (b) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, respectively, and shall constitute a single document, hereinafter referred to as 'VI-1 document'. However, the analysis report section of the VI-1 document does not need to be completed where the products are not intended for direct human consumption.

The competent bodies and designated bodies or departments referred to in Article 90(3)(a) and (b) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 shall be those referred to in Article 51(1)(a) and (b) of this Regulation in respect of the third countries concerned.

2 The VI-1 document shall be drawn up and used in accordance with Articles 22 to 25 and shall be regarded as certifying that the imported product:

- a has the characteristics of a wine product in accordance with Union law or in compliance with a bilateral agreement in force between the Union and a third country;
- b was made from grapes of a specific vintage year or has been produced from the wine grape variety or varieties designated;
- c where applicable, complies with the specifications of the geographical indication in conformity with either the Agreement on trade-related intellectual property rights of the World Trade Organisation ('TRIPS Agreement'), Union legislation on geographical indications or an agreement on recognition and protection of geographical indications between the Union and the third country from which the wine originates.

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## Article 21

### Exemptions

By way of derogation from Article 90(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, the following exemptions shall apply:

- (a) no VI-1 document needs to be presented for:
  - (i) products in labelled containers of a nominal volume of 10 litres or less fitted with a non-reusable closing device, where the total quantity transported, whether or not made up of separate consignments, does not exceed 100 litres;
  - (ii) wine and grape juice forming part of the personal property of private individuals transferring their normal place of residence from a third country to the Union within the meaning of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1186/2009;
  - (iii) wine sent in consignments from one private individual to another, within the meaning of Article 25 of Regulation (EC) No 1186/2009 up to a maximum of 30 litres per consignment;
  - (iv) wine, grape must and grape juice contained in the personal luggage of travellers within the meaning of Article 41 of Regulation (EC) No 1186/2009 up to a maximum of 30 litres per traveller;
  - (v) wine and grape juice for trade fairs as defined in Article 90 of Regulation (EC) No 1186/2009, provided that the products in question are put up in labelled containers of not more than two litres fitted with a non-reusable closing device;
  - (vi) quantities of wine, grape must and grape juice in containers other than those referred to in point (v), imported for the purpose of scientific and technical experiments up to a maximum of 100 litres;
  - (vii) wines and grape juice imported in accordance with the provisions of the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations of 18 April 1961, the Vienna Convention on consular relations of 24 April 1963 or other consular conventions, or the New York Convention of 16 December 1969 on special missions;
  - (viii) wines and grape juice held in stores on board of ships and airplanes operating in international transport;
  - (ix) wines and grape juice originating and bottled in the Union, exported to a third country and returned to the customs territory of the Union and released for free circulation;
- (b) in the case of wine put up in labelled containers of a capacity not exceeding 60 litres, fitted with non-reusable closing devices, and provided that the wine originates in a country which has offered special guarantees accepted by the Union, as listed in Section A of Part IV of Annex VII, the analysis report section of the VI-1 document needs to be completed only in respect of:
  - (i) the actual alcoholic strength by volume;

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- (ii) the total acidity;
- (iii) the total sulphur dioxide content.

#### *Article 22*

### **Rules for drawing up the VI-1 document and the VI-2 extract**

1 The VI-1 document shall be drawn up on a form corresponding to the specimen shown in Part I of Annex VII in accordance with the technical rules set out in that Annex.

It shall be signed by an official of a competent body and by an official of a designated body or department included in the list provided for in Article 51(1).

The original and a copy of the VI-1 document shall accompany the product.

An extract, hereinafter referred to as ‘VI-2 extract’, may be drawn up in accordance with the specimen shown in Part II of Annex VII, containing the data appearing on the VI-1 document or, in case a VI-2 extract was presented, on that VI-2 extract, and stamped by a Union customs office. The original and two copies of the VI-2 extract shall accompany the product.

2 VI-1 documents and VI-2 extracts shall bear a serial number assigned, in the case of VI-1 documents, by the competent body whose official signs the document and, in the case of VI-2 extracts, by the customs office which stamps them.

#### *Article 23*

### **Use of VI-1 document and VI-2 extracts**

The original and the copy of the VI-1 document or the original and the copies of the VI-2 extract shall be handed over to the competent authorities of the Member State in which the customs formalities required for putting into free circulation the consignment to which they relate are carried out, on completion of those formalities as follows:

- (a) the customs authorities shall endorse the back of both the original and the copy of the VI-1 document or the original and the copies of the VI-2 extract, return the original of the VI-1 document or the original and a copy of the VI-2 extract to the person concerned and keep a copy of the VI-1 document or of the VI-2 extract for at least five years;
- (b) where a consignment is to be reconsigned before entry into free circulation, the new consignor shall give the customs authorities supervising the consignment the VI-1 document and the VI-2 extract relating to that consignment or, where that consignment is covered by a VI-2 extract completed previously and a VI-2 extract completed consecutively, those two VI-2 extracts.

In case a VI-2 extract is given together with the VI-1 document, the customs authorities shall verify that the particulars entered on the VI-1 document correspond to those entered on the VI-2 extract. In case a VI-2 extract completed consecutively is given together with a VI-2 extract completed previously, the customs authorities shall verify that the particulars entered on that VI-2 extract completed previously correspond to those entered on the VI-2 extract completed consecutively and shall stamp the latter, which shall then be equivalent to the VI-2 extract completed previously.



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The customs authorities shall endorse the back of both the original and the copy of the VI-1 document or of the VI-2 extract completed previously.

The customs authorities shall return the original of the VI-1 document and of any VI-2 extract to the new consignor and shall keep the copies for at least five years.

However, a VI-2 extract does not need to be completed where a consignment of a product is re-exported to a third country;

- (c) where a consignment is split before it enters into free circulation, the person concerned shall give the original and the copy of the VI-1 document or of the VI-2 extract completed previously relating to the consignment to be split to the customs authorities supervising that consignment, together with the original of the VI-2 extract completed consecutively for each new consignment and two copies of them.

The customs authorities shall verify that the particulars entered on the VI-1 document or on the VI-2 extract completed previously correspond to those on the VI-2 extract completed consecutively for each new consignment. If they correspond, the customs authorities shall stamp the latter, which shall then be equivalent to the VI-2 extract completed previously, and endorse the back of both the original and the copy of the VI-1 document or of the VI-2 extract completed previously. They shall return the original of the VI-2 extract completed consecutively together with the original of the VI-1 document or of the VI-2 extract completed previously to the person concerned and keep a copy of each of those documents for at least five years.

#### *Article 24*

##### **Use of VI-1 document in case of indirect imports**

In cases where a wine has been exported from the third country in the territory of which it was produced (hereinafter referred to as ‘the country of origin’) to another third country (hereinafter referred to as ‘the exporting country’) before being exported to the Union, the VI-1 document for the wine concerned shall be deemed to be valid for import into the Union if it has been drawn up by the competent bodies of the exporting country, without further analyses on that wine, on the basis of a VI-1 document or equivalent drawn up by the competent bodies of the country of origin, provided that the wine:

- (a) has been bottled and labelled in the country of origin and remains so; or  
(b) is exported in bulk from the country of origin and bottled and labelled in the exporting country without any further processing.

The VI-1 document of the exporting country shall bear the certification by the competent body of that country that the wine in question is a wine to which the first paragraph refers and that it fulfils the conditions set out therein.

The original or a certified copy of the VI-1 document or equivalent of the country of origin shall be attached to the VI-1 document of the exporting country.

The competent bodies of the third countries for the purposes of this Article shall be those included in the list provided for in Article 51(1).

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## Article 25

### Special rules on certification for particular wines

1 In the case of liqueur wines and wines fortified for distillation, the VI-1 documents shall be recognised as valid only where a competent body included in the list provided for in Article 51(1) has entered the following in box 14:

*the alcohol added to this wine is certified as being wine alcohol.*

2 The VI-1 document may be used as certifying that an imported wine bears a geographical indication in conformity with either the TRIPS Agreement, Union legislation on geographical indications or an agreement on recognition and protection of geographical indications between the Union and the third country from which the wine originates.

In such a case, box 14 shall indicate the following:

*the wine covered by this document is certified as having been produced in the wine-growing region and was given the geographical indication shown in box 6 in accordance with the provisions of the country of origin.*

3 The certification in box 14 referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be accompanied by the following information:

- a the full name and address of the issuing competent body;
- b the signature of an official of the competent body;
- c the competent body's stamp.

## Article 26

### Simplified procedure

1 VI-1 documents drawn up by wine producers in the third countries that have offered special guarantees accepted by the Union, as listed in Section B of Part IV of Annex VII, shall be considered as VI-1 documents drawn up by competent bodies and designated bodies or departments included in the list provided for in Article 51(1) in respect of the third countries concerned, provided that the producers have received individual authorisation from the competent bodies of those third countries and are subject to inspection by the latter.

2 Authorised producers as referred to in paragraph 1 shall use and complete VI-1 documents, entering in particular:

- a in box 1, their names and addresses and their registration numbers in the third countries listed in Section B of Part IV of Annex VII;
- b in box 9, the name and address of the competent body of the third country which authorised them;
- c in box 10, at least the particulars provided for in Article 21(b).

The producers shall sign in the space provided in boxes 9 and 10, after striking out the words 'name and title of official'.

Neither stamps nor the name and address of a designated body or department shall be required.

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## Article 27

### Electronic document

1 The VI-1 document may be replaced by an electronic document for the import into the Union of wine products from third countries which have in place a system of checks accepted by the Union, in accordance with the second subparagraph, as equivalent to that set up for the same products under Union legislation.

A system of checks in a third country may be accepted as equivalent to that set up for the same products by the Union if it fulfils at least the following conditions:

- a it offers sufficient guarantees as to the nature, the origin and the traceability of the wine products produced or traded on the territory of the third country concerned;
- b it guarantees access to the data held in the electronic system used with regard to the registration and the identification of operators, competent bodies and designated bodies or departments;
- c it guarantees the possibility to check the data referred to in point (b) within the framework of a mutual administrative cooperation.

Third countries having in place a system of checks accepted by the Union as equivalent in accordance with the second subparagraph shall be included in the list set out in Section C of Part IV of Annex VII.

2 The electronic document provided for in paragraph 1 shall contain at least the information necessary for drawing up the VI-1 document and a unique administrative reference code assigned by or under the control of the competent bodies of the third country of export. That code shall be indicated on the commercial documents required for the import into the customs territory of the Union.

3 Access to the electronic document or to the data necessary for its establishment shall be given by the third country of export at any request of the competent authorities of the Member State where the goods are to be released into free circulation. Where access to the relevant electronic systems is not available, such data may also be requested in the form of a paper document.

4 The VI-2 extracts referred to in Article 22(1) may also be issued and used using computerised systems in accordance with detailed rules laid down by the competent authorities of the Member States. The content of an electronic VI-2 extract shall be identical to the one on paper.

## CHAPTER V

### INWARD AND OUTWARD REGISTER

## Article 28

### Keeping of the inward and outward register

1 By way of derogation from Article 147(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 and provided that the entries, withdrawals and stocks can be checked at any time on the basis of

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commercial documents used for financial accounts, the inward and outward register, in this Chapter referred to as ‘the register’, need not be kept by:

- a operators who hold stocks of or offer for sale solely wine products in labelled containers of a nominal volume of 10 litres or less fitted with a non-reusable closing device, where the total quantity does not exceed 5 litres or 5 kilograms in the case of concentrated grape must, whether or not rectified, and 100 litres for all other products;
- b operators selling drinks for consumption only on the premises<sup>[F1;]</sup>  
[F2c retailers.]

2 Member States may require merchants who do not hold stocks to keep the register and, in that case, may establish the rules and procedures.

3 Member States shall draw up and keep up-to-date a list of operators obliged to keep the register. Where such a list, or a register, already exists for other purposes, it may also be used for the purposes of this Regulation.

4 The register shall be kept individually for each undertaking.

Where retail stores which sell directly to the end user form part of one and the same undertaking and are supplied by one or more central warehouses belonging to that undertaking, each such central warehouses shall, without prejudice to point (a) of paragraph 1, keep the register as regards the products it supplies. Deliveries to the retail stores shall be recorded in the register as withdrawals.

5 The register shall be kept on the premises where the products are held.

However, and on condition that entries, withdrawals and stocks can be checked at all times at the actual place where the products are held on the basis of other supporting documents, the competent authorities may grant authorisation:

- a for the register to be kept at the registered place of business of the undertaking, where products are held in various stores belonging to the same undertaking and situated in the same local administrative unit or in local administrative units situated in the immediate vicinity of each other;
- b for the register to be kept by a specialist firm.

#### **Textual Amendments**

- F1** Substituted by [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2019/840 of 12 March 2019 amending Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2018/273 as regards the importation of wine originating in Canada and exempting retailers from holding an inward and outward register.](#)
- F2** Inserted by [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2019/840 of 12 March 2019 amending Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2018/273 as regards the importation of wine originating in Canada and exempting retailers from holding an inward and outward register.](#)

### *Article 29*

#### **Operations to be recorded in the register**

1 Operators required to keep the register shall indicate the oenological practices, processing and treatments implemented by them, in accordance with requirements and oenological practices referred to in Article 78(2) and Article 80 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 and Annexes I A and I D to Regulation (EC) No 606/2009, as well as the experimental use of new oenological practices, including an appropriate reference to the

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authorisation given by the Member State concerned in accordance with Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 606/2009.

2 Where implemented, the operations concerning the following treatments shall be recorded in the register in accordance with Articles 16 and 17 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/274, including, if provided for by Member States, appropriate references to notifications made to the competent authorities in accordance with Article 30(2):

- a correction of the alcoholic strength of wine (Point 40 and Appendix 10 of Annex I A to Regulation (EC) No 606/2009) and reduction in sugar content of musts through membrane coupling (Point 49 and Appendix 16 of Annex I A to Regulation (EC) No 606/2009);
- b enrichment and sweetening (Parts I A and B of Annex VIII to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013; Articles 11 and 12 and Annexes I D and II to Regulation (EC) No 606/2009);
- c acidification and de-acidification (Parts I C and D of Annex VIII to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013; Article 13 and Points 12, 13, 46, 48 and 50 of Annex I A to Regulation (EC) No 606/2009);
- d treatment with charcoal for oenological use (Point 9 of Annex I A to Regulation (EC) No 606/2009);
- e treatment with potassium ferrocyanide (Point 26 of Annex I A to Regulation (EC) No 606/2009);
- f treatment by electrodialysis or by cation exchanger to ensure the tartaric stabilisation of the wine or acidification by cation exchanger treatment (Points 20, 36 and 43 of Annex I A to Regulation (EC) No 606/2009);
- g addition of dimethyldicarbonate (DMDC) to wine (Point 34 of Annex I A to Regulation (EC) No 606/2009);
- h use of oak chips in winemaking (Points 38 and Appendix 9 of Annex I A to Regulation (EC) No 606/2009);
- i experimental use of new oenological practices (Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 606/2009);
- j the management of dissolved gas in wine using membrane contactors (Point 52 of Annex I A of Regulation (EC) No 606/2009);
- k treatment using a membrane technology coupled with activated carbon (Point 53 of Annex I A to Regulation (EC) No 606/2009);
- l use of polyvinylimidazole-polyvinylpyrrolidone copolymers (Point 54 of Annex I A to Regulation (EC) No 606/2009);
- m use of silver chloride (Point 55 of Annex I A to Regulation (EC) No 606/2009).

3 Where implemented, the following specific operations shall be recorded in the register:

- a blending and coupage, as provided for in Articles 7 and 8 of Regulation (EC) No 606/2009;
- b bottling;
- c production of all categories of sparkling wine, semi-sparkling wine and aerated semi-sparkling wine;
- d production of liqueur wine;
- e production of concentrated grape must, whether or not rectified;
- f production of fortifying wine for distillation;
- g processing into any other product categories, such as aromatised wine.

In the case of bottling, the number of containers filled and their content shall be specified.

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## Article 30

### National rules

- 1 Member States may adopt complementary rules on registration particulars concerning:
  - a products in labelled containers of a nominal volume of 10 litres or less fitted with a non-reusable closing device as referred to in Article 28(1)(a), to be released to the market on their territory;
  - b certain categories of products referred to in Article 14(1)(a) of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/274;
  - c certain operations referred to in Article 29.

Member States may provide for the obligation to keep separate accounts or adapt the existing register.

- 2 Without prejudice to the obligation to register the particulars relating to each operation of correction of the alcoholic strength, enrichment, acidification and de-acidification referred to in points (a), (b) and (c) of Article 29(2), Member States may require operators carrying out the operations concerned on their territory to notify within a certain time limit their competent authorities or bodies of such operations after or, in the case of enrichment operations, before they are carried out.

The notification referred to in the first subparagraph shall not be required for wine products subject to systematic analytical checks of all batches of products by the competent inspection authorities of the Member States.

## CHAPTER VI

### DECLARATIONS

## Article 31

### Production declarations

- 1 Producers established in a Member State which is obliged to maintain an updated vineyard register in accordance with Article 145(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 shall submit each year a production declaration to the competent authorities of that Member State in relation to their production in the respective wine year in that Member State.

Member States which have established an annually updated vineyard register on the basis of which a link can be established among declarants, declared production and the vineyard parcels concerned, may exempt producers from the obligation to declare the information referred to in Article 22(2)(e) of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/274. In such cases the competent authorities of the Member States shall themselves complete the declarations by indicating the area on the basis of the data in the vineyard register.

- 2 Harvesters belonging to or associated with one or several cooperative wineries or groups of producers and having delivered their whole production of grapes or must to those cooperative wineries or groups, while reserving the right to obtain by winemaking a quantity of less than 10 hectolitres for their family consumption, shall be exempted from the obligation to

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submit a production declaration, provided that those cooperative wineries or groups are required to submit a production declaration.

3 Member States which are not obliged to maintain an updated vineyard register in accordance with Article 145(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 may require producers established in their territory to submit the production declaration referred to in paragraph 1.

In that case, paragraph 2 shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

#### *Article 32*

### **Stock declarations**

1 Producers, processors, bottlers and merchants who hold stocks in a Member State which is obliged to maintain an updated vineyard register in accordance with Article 145(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 shall submit each year a stock declaration of wine and must which they hold at 31 July to the competent authority of that Member State.

2 Member States which are not obliged to maintain an updated vineyard register in accordance with Article 145(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 may require producers, processors, bottlers and merchants established in their territory to submit the stock declaration referred to in paragraph 1.

#### *Article 33*

### **Harvest declarations**

Member States may require all harvesters or, on the basis of objective and non-discriminatory criteria, some of them, to submit a harvest declaration to the competent authorities in respect of the wine year in which the harvest was carried out.

#### *Article 34*

### **Treatment or marketing declarations**

1 Member States may provide that harvesters, producers and merchants of grapes, grape juice and must who, before the dates for the submission of the production and harvest declarations as specified in Articles 22 and 24 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/274, have treated or marketed wine products intended for the production of wine have to submit a treatment or marketing declaration to the competent authorities in respect of the wine year in which the treatment or marketing took place.

2 Where Member States require harvesters to submit a treatment or marketing declaration pursuant to paragraph 1, harvesters belonging to or associated with one or several cooperative wineries or groups of producers and having delivered their whole production of grapes or must to those wineries or groups of producers while reserving the right to obtain by winemaking a quantity of less than 10 hectolitres for their family consumption, shall be exempted from the obligation to submit such a declaration, provided that those cooperative wineries or groups are required to submit a treatment or marketing declaration pursuant to paragraph 1.

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## Article 35

### Common provisions

Member States may require more comprehensive information with regard to the vineyard register or production or stock declarations.

Member States may exempt any operator from the obligation to submit the declarations provided for in Articles 31 and 32 relating to wine years in which no production was made or no stock was left.

## CHAPTER VII

### CHECKS, COMPETENT AUTHORITIES, MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AND PENALTIES

#### SECTION I

### CHECKS, COMPETENT AUTHORITIES, LIAISON BODIES AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE

## Article 36

### General principles

1 Member States shall provide for checks in so far as they are necessary to ensure the proper application of the rules for the scheme of authorisations for vine plantings, vineyard register, accompanying documents and certification, imports of wine, inward and outward register and compulsory declarations laid down for that sector in Article 90 and Chapter III of Title I and Section 2 of Chapter II of Title II of Part II of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 and in this Regulation. Member States shall provide for a system of effective and risk-based official checks.

2 Official checks shall be carried out by the competent authority or authorities in accordance with the general principles laid down in Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>(5)</sup>, without prejudice to the provisions of this Regulation and of Chapter VI of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/274.

Article 59 of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the scheme of authorisations for vine plantings.

3 Paragraphs 1 and 2 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the checks of wine products with a PDO or PGI provided for in Section 2 of Chapter I of Title II of Part II of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 as regards the compliance with requirements of product specifications of those products.



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## Article 37

### Common provisions concerning checks

1 Checks shall be carried out in the Member State in which production took place, without prejudice to random or risk based analysis checks in the Member State of dispatch.

In the case of checks carried out by sampling, the number, nature and frequency of the checks shall be such that the checks are representative of the whole territory of the Member State and correspond, where applicable, to the volume of wine-sector products produced, marketed or held with a view to their marketing.

2 The checks referred to in paragraph 1 shall be administrative checks and, where appropriate, on- the-spot checks.

Administrative checks shall, where appropriate, include cross-checks with, inter alia, data from the integrated administration and control system provided for in Chapter II of Title V of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013.

On-the-spot checks shall be unannounced. However, provided that the purpose of the check is not compromised, advance notice limited to the strict minimum necessary may be given. Such notice shall not exceed 48 hours, except in duly justified cases or for those measures where systematic on-the-spot checks take place. They shall be performed by sampling an appropriate percentage of producers on the basis of a risk analysis. Every on-the-spot check shall be the subject of a control report which makes it possible to review the details of the checks carried out.

3 With regard to the vineyard register, Member States shall verify that the structural situation arising from the winegrower and production files provided for in Annexes III and IV corresponds to the actual situation in relation to each winegrower and any natural or legal person or group of such persons required to submit the production declaration laid down in Article 31. The files shall be adapted on the basis of that verification.

4 The checks of wines and other wine products from third countries shall be carried out in the Member State of entry in the territory of the Union on the basis of the VI-1 document.

## Article 38

### Persons subject to checks

1 Natural or legal persons and groups of such persons whose professional activities are the subject of the checks referred to in this Regulation shall not obstruct such checks and shall be required to facilitate them at all times.

2 Operators from which samples are taken by officials of a competent authority:

- a may not impede their collection in any way; and
- b shall provide those officials with all the information required under this Regulation or under Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/274.

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### Article 39

#### **Analytical databank of isotopic data**

The European reference centre for the control in the wine sector shall keep and update an analytical databank of isotopic data at Union level on the basis of data notified by the designated laboratories of the Member States. That data shall be obtained from harmonised isotopic analysis of the components of ethanol and water in wine products and allow relevant checks throughout the marketing, in accordance with the methods of analysis laid down pursuant to Article 80(5) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 and rules and procedures laid down in Articles 27, 28 and 29 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/274.

### Article 40

#### **Competent authorities and liaison bodies**

Member States shall designate the competent authorities to carry out the checks referred to in Article 37. Those authorities shall have a sufficient number of suitably qualified and experienced staff to carry out those checks effectively.

Where a Member State designates several competent authorities to check compliance with the rules governing the wine sector, it shall indicate their specific responsibility and coordinate their work.

Each Member State shall designate a single liaison body which shall be responsible for contacts with the Commission, the liaison bodies of other Member States, and third countries and shall receive and forward requests for administrative assistance.

### Article 41

#### **Powers of officials**

Each Member State shall take all appropriate measures to facilitate the work of the officials of its competent authorities. It shall ensure that such officials, where appropriate in conjunction with officials of other bodies which it authorises for the purpose:

- (a) have access to vineyards, winemaking and storage installations, installations for processing wine-sector products and vehicles for transporting those products;
- (b) have access to the commercial premises or warehouses and vehicles of anyone holding with a view to sale, marketing or transporting wine-sector products or products which may be intended for use in the wine sector;
- (c) may undertake an inventory of wine-sector products and substances or products which may be used for the preparation of such products;
- (d) may take samples of wine-sector products, substances or products which may be used for the preparation of such products and products held with a view to sale, marketing or transport;
- (e) may study accounting data and other documents of use in control procedures, and make copies or extracts thereof;

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- (f) may take appropriate protective measures regarding the preparation, holding, transport, description, presentation and marketing of a wine-sector product or a product intended for use in the preparation of such a product, if there is reason to believe that there has been a serious infringement of Union legislation, especially in the case of fraudulent treatment or risks to health.

#### Article 42

### Coordination of checks and access to information

With respect to checks relating to consignments carried out under cover of the accompanying documents referred to in Article 10, the competent authorities designated under Article 40 shall have access to the information held in the computerised system referred to in Article 21 of Directive 2008/118/EC and to information on the movements of wine products circulating under the arrangements laid down in Chapter IV of that Directive.

Those competent authorities shall also have access to the information held in the information systems set up to check the movements of wine products other than those referred to in the first paragraph.

The information held pursuant to the first and second paragraphs may only be used for the purposes of this Regulation.

#### Article 43

### Mutual assistance

1 Where a competent authority of a Member State carries out checks on its territory, it may request information from a competent authority of any other Member State liable to be affected directly or indirectly. Such a request shall be made through the liaison bodies provided for in the third paragraph of Article 40 and the assistance shall be provided in a timely manner.

The Commission shall be notified whenever the product which is the subject of the checks referred to in the first subparagraph originates in a third country and if the marketing of this product may be of specific interest to other Member States.

The requested authority shall provide all such information as may enable the requesting authority to carry out its duties.

2 On a reasoned request by the requesting authority, the requested authority shall carry out checks with a view to achieving the aims pursued as described in the request or shall take the necessary steps to ensure that such checks are carried out.

The requested authority shall act as though on its own behalf.

3 In agreement with the requested authority, the requesting authority may designate officials:

- a either to obtain, on the premises of the competent authorities of the Member State in which the requested authority is established, information on the application of the relevant provisions on wine products of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, this Regulation and Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/274 or on checks relating thereto, including the making of copies of transport and other documents or extracts from registers;

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- b or to be present during checks requested under paragraph 2, after informing the requested authority in good time before the start of those checks.

The copies referred to in point (a) of the first subparagraph may be made only with the agreement of the requested authority.

4 The officials of the requested authority shall remain in charge of the checks carried out on the territory of their Member State at all times.

5 The officials of the requesting authority shall:

- a produce a written order indicating their identity and official position;
- b without prejudice to the limits imposed by the Member State of the requested authority on its own officials in carrying out the checks in question, have:
  - (i) the rights of access provided for in points (a) and (b) of Article 41;
  - (ii) the right to be informed of the results of checks carried out by the officials of the requested authority under points (c) and (e) of Article 41.

6 The costs incurred in taking, treating and dispatching a sample and in carrying out analytical and organoleptic tests for checking purposes shall be borne by the competent authority of the Member State which asked for the sample to be taken. Such costs shall be calculated according to the rates applicable in the Member State in the territory of which the operations are carried out.

#### *Article 44*

#### **Conclusive force**

The findings of the officials of a competent authority of a Member State in the application of this Section may be invoked by the competent authorities of the other Member States and have the same value as if they were findings of the national competent authorities.

#### *Article 45*

#### **Notification of suspicion of non-compliance**

Where a competent authority of a Member State has grounds for suspicion or becomes aware that a wine product does not comply with the relevant provisions on wine products of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, the rules laid down in this Regulation and in Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/274 or that it has been the subject of fraudulent action to obtain or market it, the liaison body of that Member State shall notify without delay the liaison body of any Member State for which the failure to comply with those rules is of specific interest and such as to lead to administrative measures or legal action.

Where the competent authorities of a Member State find or suspect that wine products have been the subject of falsification likely to result in a health risk to consumers or do not comply with Article 80 or Article 90 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, the liaison body of that Member State shall, without delay, inform the Commission and the liaison bodies of the other Member States, and, if appropriate, the liaison body of the third countries concerned, through the information system put in place by the Commission.

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## SECTION II

### PENALTIES

#### Article 46

#### **Penalties and cost recovery for non-authorised plantings**

Member States shall impose financial penalties on producers who do not comply with the obligation laid down in Article 71(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013.

The minimum amount of the financial penalty shall be:

- (a) EUR 6 000 per hectare, if the producer grubbs up the totality of the non-authorised planting within the four months from the date on which he is notified of the irregularity, as referred to in Article 71(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013;
- (b) EUR 12 000 per hectare, if the producer grubbs up the totality of the non-authorised planting during the first year following the expiry of the 4-month period;
- (c) EUR 20 000 per hectare, if the producer grubbs up the totality of the non-authorised planting after the first year following the expiry of the 4-month period.

Where the yearly income obtained in the area where the vineyards concerned are located is estimated to exceed EUR 6 000 per hectare, Member States may increase the minimum amounts set in the second subparagraph proportionally to the average yearly income per hectare estimated for that area.

If the Member State ensures the grubbing up of the non-authorised planting by its own means, the relevant cost charged to the producer pursuant to Article 71(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 shall be calculated in an objective way taking into account the costs of labour, use of machinery and transport or other costs incurred. Such cost shall be added to the applicable penalty.

#### Article 47

#### **Penalties relating to accompanying documents and VI-1 documents for non-conformity with certain Union rules**

1 The application of Articles 10, 11 and 12 may be suspended for operators referred to in Article 8(1) where the competent authorities of a Member State find or suspect that wine products have been the subject of falsification likely to result in a health risk to consumers or do not comply with Article 80 or Article 90 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013.

2 The application of Articles 26 and 27 may be suspended in case of findings or suspicions referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article in respect of imported wines.

#### Article 48

#### **Penalties for non-compliance with the obligations to keep the inward and outward register, submit declarations or make notifications**

1 Operators required to keep the inward and outward register, to submit production, stock or harvest declarations or to notify the competent authorities of the operations referred

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to in Article 30(2) who do not keep such register, do not submit such declarations by the dates referred to in Articles 22, 23 and 24 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/274 or do not make such notification by the date set by the Member State pursuant to Article 30(2) of this Regulation, shall be subject to administrative penalties.

2 The penalties referred to in paragraph 1 shall take the form of payment of an amount and shall be laid down and applied by the Member States based on the value of the products, the estimated financial benefits or the economic damage caused by fraud.

3 In cases of serious or repeated non-compliance with the obligation to submit declarations by the dates referred to in paragraph 1, the operator concerned shall not benefit from the support measures provided for in Articles 47 and 50 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 for the financial year in question or the following financial year, subject to the following:

- a where the dates referred to in Articles 22, 23 and 24 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/274 are exceeded, but by not more than 15 working days, only administrative penalties referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article shall be applied;
- b where the information contained in the declarations referred to in paragraph 1 are deemed to be incomplete or inaccurate by the competent authorities of the Member States, and where knowledge of the missing or inaccurate information is essential for the proper application of the support measures provided for in Articles 47 and 50 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, the support to be paid shall be reduced proportionately by an amount set by the competent authority depending on the seriousness of the infringement.

#### *Article 49*

### **Exceptional circumstances and obvious errors**

1 The penalties provided for in this Regulation shall not be imposed in cases of exceptional circumstances within the meaning of Article 2(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013.

2 Any communication, claim or request made to a Member State under this Regulation may be adjusted at any time after its submission in cases of obvious errors recognised by the competent authority.

## CHAPTER VIII

### NOTIFICATIONS

#### *Article 50*

### **Nature and type of information to be notified**

- 1 Member States shall notify the Commission of the following:
  - a the laws, regulations or administrative provisions they have adopted pursuant to Article 120(2)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, this Regulation and Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/274;
  - b name and address of competent authorities responsible for carrying out official analyses, the administrative certification procedure and checks related to registers and accompanying documents;

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- c name and address of competent authorities responsible for the granting of authorisations for vine plantings, and of those responsible for maintaining and updating a vineyard register and for submitting an updated inventory of the production potential;
  - d the thresholds referred to in points (1) and (2) of the first paragraph of Section H of Annex II;
  - e the measures they have taken to implement Chapter VII, where notification of those measures is relevant for the cooperation between Member States, and the name and address of the liaison body designated by each Member State;
  - f the conditions that they apply with respect to drawing up the accompanying documents referred to in points (a)(iii) and (b) of the first subparagraph of Article 10(1);
  - g the wine grape varieties concerned by the application of Article 81 and Article 120(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013.
- 2 Member States shall notify the Commission of any changes in the name and address of the competent authorities and the liaison bodies notified to the Commission in accordance with paragraph 1.
- 3 The notification provided for in paragraph 1 shall be made in accordance with Article 34 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/274.

#### *Article 51*

#### **Publication of the information notified**

- 1 On the basis of notifications from the competent authorities of third countries, the Commission shall draw up and update lists containing the following information:
- a name and address of competent bodies in the product's country of origin responsible for issuing VI-1 documents;
  - b name and address of bodies or departments designated by the country of origin or, where non-existent in the country of origin, an already authorised laboratory outside the product's country of origin, for the purpose of filling-in the analysis report section of VI-1 documents;
  - c name, address and official registration number of the wine producers and processors authorised by the product's country of origin to draw up VI-1 documents;
  - d name and address of a single liaison body designated in each third country to receive and forward requests for administrative assistance and to represent its country vis-à-vis the Commission and the Member States.
- 2 The Commission shall make public the name and address of the competent authorities referred to in Article 50(1)(b) and (c), the information regarding the production potential referred to in Article 50(1)(c), the name and address of the liaison body referred to in Article 50(1)(e), the wine grape varieties referred to in Article 50(1)(g) and the lists referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

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## CHAPTER IX

### AMENDMENTS, REPEALS, TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

#### *Article 52*

#### **Amendments to Regulation (EC) No 555/2008**

Regulation (EC) No 555/2008 is amended as follows:

- (1) Articles 1, 21, 22 and 23, 38 to 54, 74, 83 to 95a and 98 to 102 are deleted;
- (2) Annexes IX to XIII and XVI to XXI are deleted.

#### *Article 53*

#### **Amendments to Regulation (EC) No 606/2009**

Regulation (EC) No 606/2009 is amended as follows:

- (1) Articles 12 and 13 are deleted;
- (2) The following Articles 14a and 14b are inserted:

#### *Article 14a*

#### **Fixing a minimum percentage of alcohol for by-products**

- 1 Subject to point 1 of Section D of Part II of Annex VIII to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, Member States shall fix a minimum percentage for the volume of alcohol that must be contained in the by-product, after its separation from wines, in relation to that contained in the wine produced. Member States may modulate that minimum percentage on the basis of objective and non-discriminatory criteria.
- 2 Where the relevant percentage fixed by Member States pursuant to paragraph 1 is not reached, the operator concerned shall deliver a quantity of wine from his own production that corresponds to the quantity needed to reach the minimum percentage.
- 3 For the purpose of determining the volume of alcohol contained in the by-products in relation to that contained in the wine produced, the standard wine natural alcoholic strengths by volume to be applied in the different wine-growing zones shall be:
  - a 8,0 % for zone A;
  - b 8,5 % for zone B;
  - c 9,0 % for zone C I;
  - d 9,5 % for zone C II;
  - e 10,0 % for zone C III.



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### *Article 14b*

#### **Disposal of by-products**

- 1 Producers shall withdraw the by-products of winemaking or of any other processing of grapes under supervision by the competent authorities of the Member States, subject to the requirements on delivery and registration laid down in Article 9(1)(b) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/273<sup>(6)</sup> and Article 14(1)(b)(vii) and Article 18 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/274<sup>(7)</sup>, respectively.
- 2 Withdrawal shall be carried out without delay and no later than at the end of the wine year in which the by-products were obtained, in compliance with applicable Union legislation, in particular as regards the environment.
- 3 Member States may decide that producers who, during the wine year in question, do not produce more than 50 hectolitres of wine or must themselves on their own premises are not required to withdraw their by-products.
- 4 Producers may fulfil the obligation of disposal for all or a part of the by-products of winemaking or any other processing of grapes by delivering the by-products to distillation. Such disposal of the by-products shall be certified by a competent authority of the Member State.
- 5 Member States may decide that the delivery to distillation of all or a part of the by-products of winemaking or of any other processing of grapes is made compulsory for all or certain producers on their territory on the basis of objective and non-discriminatory criteria.

### *Article 54*

#### **Amendment to Regulation (EC) No 607/2009**

In Regulation (EC) No 607/2009, Article 63 is deleted.

### *Article 55*

#### **Repeal**

Regulation (EC) No 436/2009 and Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/560 are repealed.

### *Article 56*

#### **Entry into force**

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

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- (1) Commission Regulation (EC) No 684/2009 of 24 July 2009 implementing Council Directive 2008/118/EC as regards the computerised procedures for the movement of excise goods under suspension of excise duty ([OJ L 197, 29.7.2009, p. 24](#)).
- (2) Commission Regulation (EEC) No 3649/92 of 17 December 1992 on a simplified accompanying document for the intra-Community movement of products subject to excise duty which have been released for consumption in the Member State of dispatch ([OJ L 369, 18.12.1992, p. 17](#)).
- (3) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/2447 of 24 November 2015 laying down detailed rules for implementing certain provisions of Regulation (EU) No 952/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the Union Customs Code ([OJ L 343, 29.12.2015, p. 558](#)).
- (4) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/2446 of 28 July 2015 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 952/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards detailed rules concerning certain provisions of the Union Customs Code ([OJ L 343, 29.12.2015, p. 1](#)).
- (5) Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products, amending Regulations (EC) No 999/2001, (EC) No 396/2005, (EC) No 1069/2009, (EC) No 1107/2009, (EU) No 1151/2012, (EU) No 652/2014, (EU) 2016/429 and (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Regulations (EC) No 1/2005 and (EC) No 1099/2009 and Council Directives 98/58/EC, 1999/74/EC, 2007/43/EC, 2008/119/EC and 2008/120/EC, and repealing Regulations (EC) No 854/2004 and (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Directives 89/608/EEC, 89/662/EEC, 90/425/EEC, 91/496/EEC, 96/23/EC, 96/93/EC and 97/78/EC and Council Decision 92/438/EEC (Official Controls Regulation) ([OJ L 95, 7.4.2017, p. 1](#)).
- (6) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/273 of 11 December 2017 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the scheme of authorisations for vine plantings, the vineyard register, accompanying documents and certification, the inward and outward register, compulsory declarations, notifications and publication of notified information, and supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the relevant checks and penalties, amending Commission Regulations (EC) No 555/2008, (EC) No 606/2009 and (EC) No 607/2009 and repealing Commission Regulation (EC) No 436/2009 and Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/560 ([OJ L 58, 28.2.2018, p. 1](#)).
- (7) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/274 of 11 December 2017 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the scheme of authorisations for vine plantings, certification, the inward and outward register, compulsory declarations and notifications, and of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the relevant checks, and repealing Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/561 ([OJ L 58, 28.2.2018, p. 60](#)).

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