

CHAPTER 9
OPTIONAL STATEMENTS
APPELLATION OF ORIGIN AND VINTAGE DATE

1. APPELLATION OF ORIGIN (27 CFR 4.25 AND 4.34)

- GENERAL FEATURES

- An appellation of origin is not required on all wine labels. However, the label must include an appellation of origin if the wine is labeled with:
 - A vintage date (27 CFR 4.27);
 - A varietal designation (27 CFR 4.23);
 - A type designation of varietal significance (27 CFR 4.28);
 - A semi-generic designation (27 CFR 4.24);
 - An “estate bottled” claim (27 CFR 4.26); or
 - A product name qualified with the word “brand” under the requirements of 27 CFR 4.39(j).
- In some cases, only a particular type of appellation may be used. See *e.g.*, 27 CFR 4.26 (estate bottled). As explained in Chapter 4, Geographic Brand Names, the use of certain appellations of origin may also satisfy the requirements of 27 CFR 4.39(i) with respect to the use of “grandfathered” brand names of viticultural significance.
- When an appellation of origin is required to appear on the label under 27 CFR 4.34(b), the appellation must appear in direct conjunction with, and in lettering substantially as conspicuous as, the class and type designation on the brand label.

- TERMS

- An appellation of origin generally designates the geographic area in which the fruit or agricultural product was grown. The chart below sets forth the minimum percentage requirements for different appellations of origin. Other requirements for use of an appellation of origin are also set forth in the regulations.
- An American viticultural area is a delimited grape-growing region having a name, distinguishing features, and a delineated boundary as established in 27 CFR part 9.
- In the case of viticultural areas for imported wine, the boundaries must be recognized and defined by the country of origin for use on labels of wine available for consumption within the country of origin.

REQUIREMENTS FOR USE – AMERICAN WINE

APPELLATION	REQUIREMENTS FOR USE...	If Grape Wine Labeled with a Vintage Date
<p>The United States or American</p>	<p>1) Not less than 75 percent of the wine must be derived from fruit or agricultural products (as applicable) grown in the United States; AND 2) The wine must be fully finished (except for cellar treatment pursuant to §4.22(c), and blending that does not result in an alteration of class or type under §4.22(b)) within the United States; AND 3) The wine must conform to the laws and regulations of the named appellation area governing the composition, method of manufacture, and designation of wines made in the United States.</p>	<p>At least 85% of the wine was derived from grapes harvested in the stated calendar year.</p>
<p>A State</p>	<p>1) Not less than 75 percent of the wine must be derived from fruit or agricultural products (as applicable) grown in the named State; AND 2) The wine must be fully finished (except for cellar treatment pursuant to §4.22(c), and blending that does not result in an alteration of class or type under §4.22(b)) in the named State or an adjacent State; AND 3) The wine must conform to the laws and regulations of the named appellation area governing the composition, method of manufacture, and designation of wines made in such State.</p>	<p>At least 85% of the wine was derived from grapes harvested in the stated calendar year.</p>
<p>A county</p> <p>The appellation must be identified with the word “county” in the same size of type as, and in letters as conspicuous as, the name of the county.</p>	<p>1) Not less than 75 percent of the wine must be derived from fruit or agricultural products (as applicable) grown in the named county; AND 2) The wine must be fully finished (except for cellar treatment pursuant to §4.22(c), and blending that does not result in an alteration of class or type under §4.22(b)) in the State in which the named county is located; AND 3) The wine must conform to the laws and regulations of the named appellation area (including the law of the State in which the county is located) governing the composition, method of manufacture, and designation of wines made in such county.</p>	<p>At least 85% of the wine was derived from grapes harvested in the stated calendar year</p>

APPELLATION	REQUIREMENTS FOR USE...	If Grape Wine Labeled with a Vintage Date
<p>Multistate appellation -</p> <p>Comprising two or no more than three States which are all contiguous</p>	<p>1) All of the fruit or agricultural products (as applicable) were grown in the States indicated, and the percentage of the wine derived from fruit or other agricultural products grown in each State is shown on the label with a tolerance of plus or minus 2 percent;</p> <p>2) The wine has been fully finished (except for cellar treatment pursuant to §4.22(c), and blending that does not result in an alteration of class or type under §4.22(b)) in one of the labeled appellation States; AND</p> <p>3) The wine conforms to the laws and regulations governing the composition, method of manufacture, and designation of wines in all of the States listed in the appellation.</p>	<p>At least 85% of the wine was derived from grapes harvested in the stated calendar year.</p>
<p>Multicounty appellation -</p> <p>Comprising two or no more than three counties in the same State</p>	<p>1) All of the fruit or agricultural products (as applicable) were grown in the counties indicated; AND</p> <p>2) The percentage of the wine derived from fruit or agricultural products (as applicable) grown in each county is shown on the label with a tolerance of plus or minus two percent.</p>	<p>At least 85% of the wine was derived from grapes harvested in the stated calendar year.</p>
<p>An approved American viticultural area</p>	<p>1) Not less than 85 percent of the wine must be derived from grapes grown in the named viticultural area; AND</p> <p>2) The wine must be fully finished (except for cellar treatment pursuant to §4.22(c), and blending that does not result in an alteration of class or type under §4.22(b)) in the State (or one of the States) in which the named viticultural area is located.</p>	<p>At least 95% of the wine was derived from grapes harvested in the stated calendar year.</p>

REQUIREMENTS FOR USE – IMPORTED WINE

Appellation	REQUIREMENTS FOR USE...	If Grape Wine Labeled with a Vintage Date
A foreign country	1) Not less than 75 percent of the wine must be derived from fruit or agricultural products (as applicable) grown in the named country AND 2) The wine must conform to the laws and regulations of the named country governing the composition, method of production, and designation of wines available for consumption within that country.	At least 85% of the wine was derived from grapes harvested in the stated calendar year.
A foreign state, province, territory, or similar political subdivision of a country equivalent to a State or county	1) Not less than 75 percent of the wine must be derived from fruit or agricultural products (as applicable) grown in the named foreign equivalent of a State AND 2) The wine must conform to the laws and regulations of the country in which the wine was produced governing the composition, method of production, and designation of wines available for consumption within that country.	At least 85% of the wine was derived from grapes harvested in the stated calendar year.
A foreign equivalent of a multistate appellation - Comprising two or no more than three states, provinces, territories, or similar political subdivisions of a foreign country equivalent to a state which are all contiguous	1) All of the fruit or agricultural products (as applicable) were grown in the states, provinces, territories, or similar political subdivisions of a country equivalent to a state indicated, and the percentage of the wine derived from fruit or other agricultural products grown in each state, province, territory, or political subdivision equivalent to a state is shown on the label with a tolerance of plus or minus 2 percent; AND 2) The wine must conform to the laws and regulations of the country in which the wine was produced governing the composition, method of production, and designation of wines available for consumption within that country.	At least 85% of the wine was derived from grapes harvested in the stated calendar year.

Appellation	REQUIREMENTS FOR USE...	If Grape Wine Labeled with a Vintage Date
An approved foreign viticultural area	1) Not less than 85 percent of the wine must be derived from grapes grown in the named viticultural area AND 2) The wine must conform to the laws and regulations of the country in which the wine was produced governing the composition, method of production, and designation of wines available for consumption within that country.	At least 95% of the wine was derived from grapes harvested in the stated calendar year.

2. VINTAGE DATE (27 CFR 4.27)

- GENERAL FEATURES

- The vintage date is not required to appear on the label. However, the presence of a vintage date requires an appellation of origin.
- May only appear on grape wine.
- Is usually displayed on the brand label along with the class and type designation and brand name.

- DEFINITIONS

Vintage wine is labeled with the year the grapes were harvested. The wine must be made in accordance with Class 1, 2, or 3 of 27 CFR 4.21. See 27 CFR 4.21(a), (b) and (c).

- REQUIREMENTS FOR USE – MINIMUM PERCENTAGES
 - For wine that is labeled with a viticultural area appellation of origin (or foreign equivalent), at least 95 percent of the wine must have been derived from grapes harvested in the labeled calendar year.
 - For wine that is labeled with an appellation of origin other than a viticultural area (or foreign equivalent), at least 85 percent of the wine must have been derived from grapes harvested in the labeled calendar year.

- REQUIREMENTS FOR USE - DOCUMENTATION

- For American wine, the permittee who bottles, packs, rebottles, or repacks the wine in containers of 5 liters or less must possess appropriate records from the producer substantiating the year of vintage, the appellation of origin, and compliance with the provisions of 27 CFR 4.27.
- For imported wine, the importer of the wine imported in bottles or the domestic bottler of wine imported in bulk and bottled in the United States must be able to demonstrate, upon request by the appropriate TTB officer or a customs officer, that the wine is entitled to be labeled with the vintage date if it had been sold within the country of origin.
- For imported wine, the wine must either be bottled in containers of 5 liters or less prior to importation or be bottled in the United States from the original container showing a vintage date.