

INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR THE WINE INDUSTRY

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Background from an South African Perspective

Over the last few years we in South Africa have been experiencing what we had been expecting: Consumers are more and more adamant about which guarantees producers should supply. Some years ago the Scheme for the Integrated Production of Wine, which supplies guarantees with regard to the protection of the environment as well as handling some food safety issues was established.

The Scheme for Integrated Production of Wine (IPW) was introduced in South Africa in 1998. Although voluntary, 95% of exporting producers representing 97% of grapes harvested have joined the Scheme. Fifteen guidelines for production of grapes and 13 for production of wine form the technical base of IPW. An IPW Committee of experts revises guidelines every two years. Spray records are evaluated based on IP coding of registered agrochemicals by the AgChem Environmental Work Group, which assesses the environmental impact of each product. Compliance with guidelines for grape production and winemaking is evaluated by producers and winemakers themselves, and audited by ARC Infruitec-Nietvoorbij and other environmental specialists on a spot check basis. Evaluation records are also available to buyers.

The Draft South African SANS 64 Standard as external audit

In 2002 a draft standard called SANS 64 (South African National Standard) was introduced that extends the IPW Scheme's guarantees to the modern consumer regarding environment friendly production to include guarantees with regard to quality, food safety, social and worker safety. The above is part and parcel of the South African Vision 2020 recommendations.

The modern consumer (and thus the big supermarkets) needs guarantees with regard to the purchase of a food product, which were never so formally required in the past. In summary the following is required:

- The quality of the product, which must be constant in a specific price bracket. The consumer expects to find the same quality when paying a specific price.
- It must be devoid of poisonous substances,
- Worker safety must be assured.

- Social conditions of workers must be impeccable
- Good Agricultural Practices on farms
- Protection of environment. Production must have been such that the environment was damaged as little as possible
- Trace ability to know the source and route of the product.

The South African Liquor Products Act (Act 60 of 1989), with all its tools such as analysis, a minimum quality standard for certified and export wine along with IPW (the Scheme for the Integrated Production of wine) currently supplies the needed technical guarantees discussed above. Recent developments in international trade and legislation have, however, necessitated a remoulding and elaboration of current systems. This led to the registration of a Draft Standard called SANS 64 (which should be finalized and in place by 2005), at the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) that encompasses a joining of the following standards/legislation:

- ISO 9001:2000, (Quality)
- ISO 14001:1996,(Environment)
- OHSAS 18001, (Worker health & safety)
- HACCP, (Food safety)
- SA 8000 & WIETA, (Social aspects of workers)
- IPW (Good Agricultural Practices on wine farms and at cellars)
- EUREPGAP (GAP on fruit farms)
- BRC (British Retail Consortium, UK)
- IFS (International Food Standard)
- USA and Japanese market standards
- Wine of Origin (Trace ability)
- Biodiversity guidelines

Internationally acceptable auditors will audit this encompassing standard and the idea is to study and promote this management system at the OIV to the extent that it becomes the standard for the International Wine Industry.

Request to the OIV:

- 1) That the OIV adopt the Principle of studying such an Integrated Management System.
- 2) That the concept be broadened to cover all products produced in the Vitivinicultural sector.