

amount of wine spirits so used or transferred or taxpaid and, in addition, with such portion of wine spirits so withdrawn as may have been lost either in transit or on the bonded wine cellar premises, to the extent allowable under section 5008(a). Where the proprietor has used wine spirits in actual wine production but in violation of the requirements of this subchapter, the Secretary shall also extend such credit to the wine spirits so used if the proprietor satisfactorily shows that such wine spirits were not knowingly used in violation of law.

(4) Suitable samples of brandy or wine spirits may, under regulations prescribed by the Secretary, be withdrawn free of tax from the bonded premises of any distilled spirits plant, bonded wine cellar, or authorized experimental premises, for analysis or testing.

**(c) Distillates containing aldehydes**

When the Secretary deems such removal and use will not jeopardize the revenue nor unduly increase administrative supervision, distillates containing aldehydes may, under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, be removed without payment of tax from the bonded premises of a distilled spirits plant to an adjacent bonded wine cellar and used therein in fermentation of wine to be used as distilling material at the distilled spirits plant from which such unfinished distilled spirits were removed.

(Added Pub. L. 85-859, title II, §201, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1382; amended Pub. L. 90-619, §1, Oct. 22, 1968, 82 Stat. 1236; Pub. L. 94-455, title XIX, §1906(b)(13)(A), Oct. 4, 1976, 90 Stat. 1834.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 5373, act Aug. 16, 1954, ch. 736, 68A Stat. 667, consisted of provisions similar to those comprising this section, prior to the general revision of this chapter by Pub. L. 85-859.

AMENDMENTS

1976—Pub. L. 94-455 struck out “or his delegate” after “Secretary” wherever appearing.

1968—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 90-619 inserted special natural wine, under conditions prescribed by regulations, as one of the materials from which wine spirits may be produced and extended to special natural wines the existing prohibition on the use of natural wine whose sugars have been re-fermented.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1968 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 90-619, §6, Oct. 22, 1968, 82 Stat. 1237, provided that: “The amendments made by this Act [amending this section and sections 5382 to 5387 of this title] shall take effect on the first day of the first month which begins 90 days or more after the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 22, 1968].”

PART III—CELLAR TREATMENT AND CLASSIFICATION OF WINE

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PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior part III consisted of sections 5381 to 5388 of this title, prior to the general revision of this chapter by Pub. L. 85-859, title II, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1313.

**§ 5381. Natural wine**

Natural wine is the product of the juice or must of sound, ripe grapes or other sound, ripe fruit, made with such cellar treatment as may be authorized under section 5382 and containing not more than 21 percent by weight of total solids. Any wine conforming to such definition except for having become substandard by reason of its condition shall be deemed not to be natural wine, unless the condition is corrected.

(Added Pub. L. 85-859, title II, §201, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1383; amended Pub. L. 96-39, title VIII, §807(a)(48), July 26, 1979, 93 Stat. 288.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 5381, act Aug. 16, 1954, ch. 736, 68A Stat. 668, consisted of provisions similar to those comprising this section, prior to the general revision of this chapter by Pub. L. 85-859.

AMENDMENTS

1979—Pub. L. 96-39 struck out provisions authorizing removal for distillation of wine deemed not to be natural wine, destruction of such wine under government supervision, and transfer of such wine to premises in which other than natural wine may be stored or used.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1979 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 96-39 effective Jan. 1, 1980, see section 810 of Pub. L. 96-39, set out as a note under section 5001 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective July 1, 1959, see section 210(a)(1) of Pub. L. 85-859, set out as a note under section 5001 of this title.

**§ 5382. Cellar treatment of natural wine**

**(a) Proper cellar treatment**

**(1) In general**

Proper cellar treatment of natural wine constitutes—

(A) subject to paragraph (2), those practices and procedures in the United States, whether historical or newly developed, of using various methods and materials to correct or stabilize the wine, or the fruit juice from which it is made, so as to produce a finished product acceptable in good commercial practice in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary; and

(B) subject to paragraph (3), in the case of wine produced and imported subject to an international agreement or treaty, those practices and procedures acceptable to the United States under such agreement or treaty.

**(2) Recognition of continuing treatment**

For purposes of paragraph (1)(A), where a particular treatment has been used in customary commercial practice in the United States, it shall continue to be recognized as a proper cellar treatment in the absence of regulations prescribed by the Secretary finding such treatment not to be proper cellar treatment within the meaning of this subsection.

**(3) Certification of practices and procedures for imported wine**

**(A) In general**

In the case of imported wine produced after December 31, 2004, the Secretary shall accept the practices and procedures used to produce such wine, if, at the time of importation—

(i) the Secretary has on file or is provided with a certification from the government of the producing country, accompanied by an affirmed laboratory analysis, that the practices and procedures used to produce the wine constitute proper cellar treatment under paragraph (1)(A),

(ii) the Secretary has on file or is provided with such certification, if any, as may be required by an international agreement or treaty under paragraph (1)(B), or

(iii) in the case of an importer that owns or controls or that has an affiliate that owns or controls a winery operating under a basic permit issued by the Secretary, the importer certifies that the practices and procedures used to produce the wine constitute proper cellar treatment under paragraph (1)(A).

**(B) Affiliate defined**

For purposes of this paragraph, the term “affiliate” has the meaning given such term by section 117(a)(4) of the Federal Alcohol Administration Act (27 U.S.C. 211(a)(4)) and includes a winery’s parent or subsidiary or any other entity in which the winery’s parent or subsidiary has an ownership interest.

**(b) Specifically authorized treatments**

The practices and procedures specifically enumerated in this subsection shall be deemed proper cellar treatment for natural wine:

(1) The preparation and use of pure concentrated or unconcentrated juice or must. Concentrated juice or must reduced with water to its original density or to not less than 22 degrees Brix or unconcentrated juice or must reduced with water to not less than 22 degrees Brix shall be deemed to be juice or must, and shall include such amounts of water to clear crushing equipment as regulations prescribed by the Secretary may provide.

(2) The addition to natural wine, or to concentrated or unconcentrated juice or must, from one kind of fruit, of wine spirits (whether or not tax-paid) distilled in the United States from the same kind of fruit; except that (A) the wine, juice, or concentrate shall not have an alcoholic content in excess of 24 percent by volume after the addition of wine spirits, and (B) in the case of still wines, wine spirits may be added in any State only to natural wines produced by fermentation in bonded wine cellars located within the same State.

(3) Amelioration and sweetening of natural grape wines in accordance with section 5383.

(4) Amelioration and sweetening of natural wines from fruits other than grapes in accordance with section 5384.

(5) In the case of effervescent wines, such preparations for refermentation and for dosage as may be acceptable in good commercial

practice, but only if the alcoholic content of the finished product does not exceed 14 percent by volume.

(6) The natural darkening of the sugars or other elements in juice, must, or wine due to storage, concentration, heating processes, or natural oxidation.

(7) The blending of natural wines with each other or with heavy-bodied blending wine or with concentrated or unconcentrated juice, whether or not such juice contains wine spirits, if the wines, juice, or wine spirits are from the same kind of fruit.

(8) Such use of acids to correct natural deficiencies and stabilize the wine as may be acceptable in good commercial practice.

(9) The addition—

(A) to natural grape or berry wine of the winemaker’s own production, of volatile fruit-flavor concentrate produced from the same kind and variety of grape or berry at a plant qualified under section 5511, or

(B) to natural fruit wine (other than grape or berry) of the winemaker’s own production, of volatile fruit-flavor concentrate produced from the same kind of fruit at such a plant,

so long as the proportion of the volatile fruit-flavor concentrate to the wine does not exceed the proportion of the volatile fruit-flavor concentrate to the original juice or must from which it was produced. The transfer of volatile fruit-flavor concentrate from a plant qualified under section 5511 to a bonded wine cellar and its storage and use in such a cellar shall be under such applications and bonds, and under such other requirements, as may be provided in regulations prescribed by the Secretary.

**(c) Other authorized treatment**

The Secretary may by regulations prescribe limitations on the preparation and use of clarifying, stabilizing, preserving, fermenting, and corrective methods or materials, to the extent that such preparation or use is not acceptable in good commercial practice.

**(d) Use of juice or must from which volatile fruit flavor has been removed**

For purposes of this part, juice, concentrated juice, or must processed at a plant qualified under section 5511 may be deemed to be pure juice, concentrated juice, or must even though volatile fruit flavor has been removed if, at a plant qualified under section 5511 or at the bonded wine cellar, there is added to such juice, concentrated juice, or must, or (in the case of a bonded wine cellar) to wine of the winemaker’s own production made therefrom, either the identical volatile flavor removed or—

(1) in the case of natural grape or berry wine of the winemaker’s own production, an equivalent quantity of volatile fruit-flavor concentrate produced at such a plant and derived from the same kind and variety of grape or berry, or

(2) in the case of natural fruit wine (other than grape or berry wine) of the winemaker’s own production, an equivalent quantity of volatile fruit-flavor concentrate produced at such a plant and derived from the same kind of fruit.

(Added Pub. L. 85-859, title II, §201, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1383; amended Pub. L. 88-653, §§1, 2, Oct. 13, 1964, 78 Stat. 1085; Pub. L. 89-44, title VIII, §806(c)(1), June 21, 1965, 79 Stat. 164; Pub. L. 90-619, §2, Oct. 22, 1968, 82 Stat. 1237; Pub. L. 94-455, title XIX, §1906(b)(13)(A), Oct. 4, 1976, 90 Stat. 1834; Pub. L. 108-429, title II, §2002(a), Dec. 3, 2004, 118 Stat. 2588; Pub. L. 109-432, div. D, title III, §3007, Dec. 20, 2006, 120 Stat. 3176.)

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 5382, act Aug. 16, 1954, ch. 736, 68A Stat. 668, consisted of provisions similar to those comprising this section, prior to the general revision of this chapter by Pub. L. 85-859.

#### AMENDMENTS

2006—Subsec. (a)(1)(A). Pub. L. 109-432 substituted “correct or stabilize” for “stabilize”.

2004—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 108-429 amended heading and text of subsec. (a) generally. Prior to amendment text read as follows: “Proper cellar treatment of natural wine constitutes those practices and procedures in the United States and elsewhere, whether historical or newly developed, of using various methods and materials to correct or stabilize the wine, or the fruit juice from which it is made, so as to produce a finished product acceptable in good commercial practice. Where a particular treatment has been used in customary commercial practice, it shall continue to be recognized as a proper cellar treatment in the absence of regulations prescribed by the Secretary finding such treatment not to be a proper cellar treatment within the meaning of this subsection.”

1976—Pub. L. 94-455 struck out “or his delegate” after “Secretary” wherever appearing.

1968—Subsec. (b)(2)(B). Pub. L. 90-619 permitted wine spirits to be added to natural wine produced by fermentation in any bonded wine cellars located within the same State in which the addition is to take place.

1965—Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 89-44 struck out “made without added sugar or reserved as provided in sections 5383(b) and 5384(b)” after “winemaker’s own production”.

1964—Subsec. (b)(9). Pub. L. 88-653, §1, added par. (9). Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 88-653, §2, added subsec. (d).

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2004 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 108-429, title II, §2002(b), Dec. 3, 2004, 118 Stat. 2589, provided that: “The amendment made by this section [amending this section] shall take effect on January 1, 2005.”

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1968 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 90-619 effective on first day of first month which begins 90 days or more after Oct. 22, 1968, see section 6 of Pub. L. 90-619, set out as a note under section 5373 of this title.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1965 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 89-44 effective Jan. 1, 1966, see section 806(d)(2) of Pub. L. 89-44, set out as a note under section 5383 of this title.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1964 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 88-653, §4, Oct. 13, 1964, 78 Stat. 1085, provided that: “The amendments made by the first section [amending this section] and sections 2 and 3 of this Act [amending this section and section 5511 of this title] shall take effect on the first day of the second month which begins more than 10 days after the date on which this Act is enacted [Oct. 13, 1964].”

### § 5383. Amelioration and sweetening limitations for natural grape wines

#### (a) Sweetening of grape wines

Any natural grape wine may be sweetened after fermentation and before taxpayment with

pure dry sugar or liquid sugar if the total solids content of the finished wine does not exceed 12 percent of the weight of the wine and the alcoholic content of the finished wine after sweetening is not more than 14 percent by volume; except that the use under this subsection of liquid sugar shall be limited so that the resultant volume will not exceed the volume which could result from the maximum authorized use of pure dry sugar only.

#### (b) High acid wines

##### (1) Amelioration

Before, during, and after fermentation, ameliorating materials consisting of pure dry sugar or liquid sugar, water, or a combination of sugar and water, may be added to natural grape wines of a winemaker’s own production when such wines are made from juice having a natural fixed acid content of more than five parts per thousand (calculated before fermentation and as tartaric acid). Ameliorating material so added shall not reduce the natural fixed acid content of the juice to less than five parts per thousand, nor exceed 35 percent of the volume of juice (calculated exclusive of pulp) and ameliorating material combined.

##### (2) Sweetening

Any wine produced under this subsection may be sweetened by the producer thereof, after amelioration and fermentation, with pure dry sugar or liquid sugar if the total solids content of the finished wine does not exceed (A) 17 percent by weight if the alcoholic content is more than 14 percent by volume, or (B) 21 percent by weight if the alcoholic content is not more than 14 percent by volume. The use under this paragraph of liquid sugar shall be limited to cases where the resultant volume does not exceed the volume which could result from the maximum authorized use of pure dry sugar only.

##### (3) Wine spirits

Wine spirits may be added (whether or not wine spirits were previously added) to wine produced under this subsection only if the wine contains not more than 14 percent of alcohol by volume derived from fermentation.

(Added Pub. L. 85-859, title II, §201, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1384; amended Pub. L. 89-44, title VIII, §806(b)(1), June 21, 1965, 79 Stat. 162; Pub. L. 90-619, §3, Oct. 22, 1968, 82 Stat. 1237.)

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 5383, act Aug. 16, 1954, ch. 736, 68A Stat. 669, consisted of provisions similar to those comprising this section, prior to the general revision of this chapter by Pub. L. 85-859.

#### AMENDMENTS

1968—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 90-619, §3(b), substituted “not more than 14 percent” for “less than 14 percent”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 90-619, §3(a), simplified production procedures and calculations, provided that the limitation on sweetening high acid wine is to be based upon the total solids content of the finished wine, authorized the use of liquid sugar but only to the extent that it did not increase the total volume of the finished wine above what it would be if the maximum authorized use had been made of dry sugar only, and inserted provisions making it clear that wine spirits may be