

## WINE AND SPIRIT BOARD/SAWIS

### OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION RE SERVICES DURING LOCKDOWN, EXPORTS OF FINISHED GOODS

A nationwide lockdown has come into effect at 24:00 on Thursday 26 March 2020 and will last for 21 days, until 16 April 2020. This lockdown means that every South African must stay at home and that non-essential services will be closed during this time.

This official communication has been prepared following the exemption by the RSA Government as per the Government Gazette that was published on the 7th of April 2020. It is industry's understanding that permission has been granted for finished wine product (in bulk and packaged format) to be transported from cellars and warehouses to ports or airports for the purpose of export.

SAWIS continues to deliver critical services during the lockdown period. Measures to ensure the safety of employees and industry roleplayers has been introduced. Such measures include, but are not limited to the wearing of personal protective equipment, the use of hand sanitizers, no visitors allowed in the building, reduced travelling and working from home, where possible.

Inspectors will work from home. Administrative and support services staff that can work from home do so. All inspectors are available on their mobile phones and emails, please consult your certification manual. For any other SAWIS related matters please use the contact details as set out below:

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The relevant contingency plans will be activated in the event where we suspect any of our staff have been infected or been in contact with someone infected with COVID-19.

**The safety and health of our employees are of paramount importance.**

During the lockdown period the following will apply.

Inspection and Certification are operational, where deemed critical, during the lockdown, please refer to below for operational hours.

Certification operations will continue, but only with regard to finished wine product (in bulk and packaged format) to be exported during the lockdown period:

- **Will only deal with submissions for wine to be exported during the lockdown period. In the case of packaged wines it is only applicable for wine in possession of seals. No new applications will be allowed. It remains the responsibility of the industry roleplayers to provide proof of an order.**
- Wines will be approved without sensorial evaluation.
- Wines will still have to be submitted for analysis.
- Status quo remains with regard to BG 6 (blends) notifications.
- Olifants River to be serviced on Tuesdays only. Notifications of export samples not later than Monday, 12:00. Please note that these dates and times could change as the situation at the laboratories change. We will keep you informed through circulars.
- Taking into consideration the situation with regard to the different laboratories Robertson export samples will only be collected on Mondays and Tuesdays. Contact Carel van der Merwe (083 444 6950) for more details. Please note that these dates and times could change as the situation at the laboratories change. We will keep you informed through circulars.

**Specific working procedures applicable for exports during the lockdown period:**

- Applicable applications on Wine Online continue as normal.
- No unlabelled wine and seal (BG9 special tariff/BG9 with samples/ BG9 admins) applications will be allowed.
- Wines not yet sensorially approved, but in possession of seals, to be submitted via BG11 with samples/BG11 bulk only. Please contact your inspector to collect samples for analysis. Taking into consideration the situation with regard to the different laboratories' export samples can only be collected on Mondays and Tuesdays. Notifications to the inspectors before 12:00 on the Friday or Monday. Please note that these dates and times could change as the situation at the laboratories change. We will keep you informed through circulars.
- Unlabelled bottled wine already sensorially approved and in possession of seals, but where the sensorial date has expired, the same procedure will apply as for BG11 with samples.
- Status quo with regard to BG11 admins.
- No BG11 speedlines will be allowed.
- After hours submissions will not be dealt with during the lockdown period.

- Normal SAWIS office hours (8:00 till 16:30) will apply on Monday and Tuesdays for collection of samples. Please note that these dates and times could change as the situation at the laboratories change. We will keep you informed through circulars. National legislation with regard to travel restrictions will have to be adhered to and could affect our operations.

Apart from the above all inspection services will be put on hold until further notice.

The Wine and Spirit Board Label Committee will continue with its Wednesday meetings. It remains a roleplayer's responsibility to submit their labels timeously for approval.

All Wine and Spirit Board Technical Committee meetings have been cancelled and will only resume after the lockdown.

The Wine and Spirit Board Demarcation Committee will handle all pending applications as far as possible electronically and telephonically.

The Wine and Spirit Board Management Committee will have electronic meetings as far as possible.

Employees of the Wine and Spirit Board will be working from home during the lockdown to assist industry with all matters pertaining to the Wine of Origin scheme, IPW scheme, Estate Brandy scheme and Financial matters (accounts). Herewith their contact details:

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As the situation remains fluid, we will be assessing the situation continuously and where deemed necessary adjust our working procedures to ensure the safety of our employees whilst also ensuring that industry, as deemed critical, can continue to be operational. If anything changes we will communicate it via our normal channels, the SAWIS website and the dedicated WineLand Covid-19 website – [www.wineland.co.za](http://www.wineland.co.za).

Olivia Poonah  
Wine and Spirit Board

Yvette van der Merwe  
SAWIS

8 April 2020