

INFORMATION BULLETIN

RECOMMENDATION FOR SPARKLING WINE PACKAGING WARNINGS

The Packaging Committee was established by the Winemakers' Federation of Australia (WFA) to enable the development of a unified position for the wine industry in regard to packaging related issues. By maintaining a forum for direct discussion amongst industry stakeholders, the Packaging Committee is positioned to respond to political, technological, environmental, regulatory and market driven changes in wine, wine product and brandy packaging.

The Packaging Committee makes recommendations on packaging related issues to the WFA Executive Council, which can then adopt the recommendations as policy.

In line with its objective to provide industry guidance on recommended packaging practices, the Packaging Committee has identified standard warnings for labels of sparkling wine and shippers as a means to potentially reduce the level of risk and injury associated with the improper handling of sparkling wine bottles.

As sparkling wine is stored under pressure, scratching or damage to the bottle can cause it to explode. Injuries have occurred as a result of consumers using corkscrews to remove sparkling wine closures, and retailers opening shippers with sharp objects such as Stanley knives.

To avoid potential injuries, a number of wine companies have elected to put warning labels on sparkling wine bottles and shippers. These companies have asked WFA to develop standard warnings for adoption by all Australian wine companies **at their own discretion**.

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Consequently, WFA has recommended that the industry adopt the following standard warnings, put forward by the Packaging Committee, for labels of sparkling wine and shippers:

Back Label:

WARNING: THIS WINE IS STORED UNDER PRESSURE. TAKE CARE NOT TO SCRATCH OR DAMAGE THIS BOTTLE AS IT MAY CAUSE IT TO EXPLODE. TO OPEN, POINT BOTTLE AWAY FROM SELF & OTHERS. DO NOT USE A CORKSCREW TO REMOVE THE CORK.

Shipper Warning (international warning symbol over a Stanley knife):

WARNING: BOX CONTAINS BOTTLED WINE STORED UNDER PRESSURE. TAKE CARE NOT TO SCRATCH BOTTLE BY USING SHARP OBJECTS TO OPEN THIS BOX.

Please note that these warnings address injuries arising from exploding sparkling wine bottles only and not other areas of potential injury such as bottle neck breakages. In addition, please note that although WFA has recommended that the industry adopt these warnings, they are not compulsory, and WFA makes no representation as to their legal effect.

For further information, please contact:

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