

VQA ONTARIO
Ontario's Wine Appellation Authority
NEWS & TIPS MARCH 2020

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE

It's time to renew your VQA Ontario membership. Please login to VQA Services, at <https://office.vqaontario.ca/vqaservices> and follow the directions to confirm your intention to renew. Please renew your winery's VQA membership by March 31.

MEMBER RENEWAL

VQA Membership registration renewals for 2020/2021 are now being accepted.

Please confirm your intention to renew under the "Renewal" tab in your [Organization Profile](#).

Find your invoice on the Invoices page and either pay online or send us a cheque. Please make sure you follow up with a copy of your current manufacturer's licence. **Your online renewal must be completed by March 31** or your membership will automatically expire but fee payment can be deferred to as late as June 30 as long as you notify us.

Please remember to renew all your memberships if you are a winery operating with more than one AGCO manufacturer's license.

The membership for April 1 2020 – March 31 2021 is \$500.

UPDATE YOUR ONLINE PROFILE – PERSONNEL

Upon renewing your membership, please take some time to update your online profile and ensure that your Personnel information is up-to-date with correct names and contact info (email addresses AND phone numbers). This is also a good a time to review your permission settings (i.e. who can pay an invoice, who receives the VQA communications, etc.) If you have any questions about this please contact [Susan Piovesan](mailto:Susan.Piovesan@vqaontario.ca), or access the User Guide online within the document library, found on the VQA Services website.

REMINDER – IT'S BUSY SEASON AT LCBO

The volume of samples coming through the system for tasting and lab continues to be high in March. Please give yourself lots of time to get your samples approved. Delays may occur at the tasting panel or lab. If the weekly line-ups are full, or if you send more than four samples, some of your wines may be held for the following week. Please contact Kaitlin.wilson@vqaontario.ca if you have any questions.

TRACEABILITY AND LOT CODES - JULY 2020

New federal regulations take effect July 2020. VQA Ontario requires lot codes on all non-vintage wines and will accept any format of lot code that is acceptable under the new federal regulations.

The following information was provided to us by [Wine Growers Canada \(WGC\)](#):

Under the new Safe Food for Canadians Regulations (SFCR) all wine that is imported, exported or is sold across provincial/territorial borders or retail will require traceability documents effective July 15, 2020. These documents must indicate the following:

Identify the food:

- Common name of the food provided
- Lot code to allow for the food to be traced
- Name and principal place of business by whom or for whom, the food was manufactured, prepared, produced, stored, packaged or labelled the food

Trace the food one step back:

- Name and address of the person who provided you with the food
- Date you were provided the food

Trace the food one step forward:

- Name and address of the person to whom you provided the food
- Date you provided the food

Clear and readable records are to be maintained for two years, be accessible in Canada, and provided to CFIA upon request. Where electronic records are used, they need to be provided in a single file and in a format that can easily be opened and used in standard commercial software.

Traceability guidelines can be found on the CFIA website.

[Main page for traceability](#)

[Regulatory requirements](#)

Under the Safe Food for Canadians Regulations (SFCR) a lot code or a unique identifier (lot code if it is a consumer prepackaged food not packaged at retail) will be required.

CFIA regulations also do not define what is considered a “readily discernible”, lot code. To address this, CFIA will be developing guidance for the industry to better understand and comply and will be published alongside the final regulatory test.

MONTHLY SALES REPORTS – NO MORE PRINTED COPIES PLEASE

If you are not uploading your sales instead of mailing them, this is the last month they will be accepted. Any reports that are submitted in hard copy will be rejected beginning with the April 2020 monthly reporting period. If you need help with this feature, please contact us.