

4. After the liquor Inspector has inspected the consignment to make sure that the labels comply and that it is the same product/s that was submitted when you applied for the Import Certificate/s, the Removal Certificate will be issued. Please note that the Inspector may draw samples for analyses on a risk basis and can request original supplementary documentation to prove certain claims on the label.
5. After the compliance inspection and issuance of Removal Certificate, the imported liquor product concerned may be sold.
6. If you want to import a second consignment of the same liquor product (importer, label, content and volume of the liquor product is exactly the same) you do not have to apply for an Import Certificate again. An Import Certificate is issued once for the "life" of the liquor product concerned, provided that the name, content, supplier and bottle size of the product/s stays the same. An application for a certificate of removal must be applied for with every consignment of liquor arriving in South Africa. Notification of the intention to import must be submitted in writing to Inspection Services 48 hours BEFORE the arrival of the consignment in South Africa.
7. If a liquor product is imported in bulk, then a Permission to blend and a Permission to sell Certificate must be applied for at Division Inspection Services.
8. The importer must be a company that has been registered in South Africa and the business must have a physical address in South Africa.

#### Indication of lot number/filling date

Firstly, when the consignment is imported, Act 60 of 1989 requires that a lot number must be indicated on all imported liquor products and a filling date on all packaging that is not glass.

No person shall import any liquor product for sale in the Republic of South Africa unless the above mentioned procedures are complied with.

#### For further technical information on the Liquor Products Act and regulation thereof, contact:

Directorate: Inspection Services:  
 Gauteng: +2712 319 6333; +2711 971 5100  
 KwaZulu-Natal: +2731 368 8500  
 Western Cape: +2721 809 1645  
 Eastern Cape: +2741 484 2725  
 head office: +2712 309 8701

#### For information on policy, guidelines and interpretation of Liquor Products Act, contact:

Administering officer:  
 Directorate: Food Safety and Quality Assurance  
 Tel.: +27 21 809 1602 Fax: +27 21 887 6392

#### For food safety and quality promotion and awareness contact:

Directorate: Food Import and Export Standards  
 Tel.: +27 12 319 6118  
 E-mail: info.sps@daff.gov.za  
 Visit our website on <http://www.daff.gov.za>



## Step-by-step guide for the importation of liquor products for sale in the Republic of South Africa



agriculture,  
forestry & fisheries

Department:  
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## Background

Like many other countries, South Africa has requirements and procedures in place for control over the importation and sale of the regulated liquor products entering the country. This is stipulated in the Liquor Products Act, 1989 (Act No. 60 of 1989). These requirements are set with the aim of protecting the consumers while ensuring fair competition for the industry.

## Requirements for importation of liquor products

In terms of the Act mentioned above, if you want to register a product/s to be imported, you must apply for an Import Certificate. On the certificate is a unique import number that will be allocated to a specific product upon approval of the Import Certificate. Furthermore, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Directorate: Food Safety and Quality Assurance will require the following from you:

1. Application for an Import Certificate for each product that differs in content, labelling and composition per importer (copy attach). Importers are expected to register on [www.wineonline.co.za](http://www.wineonline.co.za) before importing regulated liquor products. Please note that tariffs are applicable on the importation of regulated liquor products and the tariffs are reviewed annually.
2. An acceptable analysis report from an accredited laboratory in the country of origin, the minimum analysis results that must be displayed on the report is as follows (Please note that the analyses results can differ depending on the type of liquor imported and must not be older than six months).

### *For Wines, Perle, or Sparkling Wine:*

- Alcohol (%vol)
- Sugar (g/l)
- Total Acidity (g/l)

- Volatile Acid (g/l)
- Total SO<sub>2</sub> (mg/l)
- Free SO<sub>2</sub> (mg/l)
- Gas Pressure (kPa or bar)

### *For Spirits:*

- Alcohol (%vol)
- Sugar (g/l)
- Higher Alcohol (g/l)
- Methanol (mg/hl AA)

3. A front and a back label of each product
4. If you cannot provide the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) with an acceptable analysis report, you will be required to submit 1 bottle of each type of product you wish to import. The sample must be in the original container.
5. The results of the analyses, the labels and composition of the import sample will be evaluated and comments will be provided in the form of a written report.
6. Remember that each product receives a unique Import Certificate number. You may not import any other product on that certificate, save for the product that the number has been allocated to.
7. If the content of the product/s does not comply with the requirements of the Liquor Product Act, Act 60 of 1989, it cannot be imported into the Republic of South Africa.
8. If only the labels needs to be rectified, the importer will be informed in writing how the labels can be rectified to comply with the labelling requirements of the Liquor Product Act, Act 60 of 1989.
9. If changes were recommended with regards to the labelling, the copies of the rectified labels must be submitted for re-evaluation and approval, before it can be applied.

10. If the label, analyses and composition of the liquor product have been approved, including the necessary supplementary documentation (e.g. age, cultivar and composition certificates), then an Import Certificate/s will be issued.
11. The Import Certificate/s serves as a green light for the importer to order a consignment of liquor product to be imported.



## What to do when the consignment of liquor product arrives in South Africa?

1. When the consignment arrives in South Africa, it must be kept in a bonded warehouse OR until such time that the Directorate: Inspection Services (DAFF, DIS) has approved that the consignment can be removed to a designated warehouse or the premises of the importer.
2. The importer must then apply for the Removal Certificates (also per product), referring back to the Import Certificate number that has been issued for each product.
3. The Removal Certificate is issued by the liquor Inspector in the region where the port of entry is located.