

**WINE AND SPIRIT BOARD/SAWIS**  
**OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION RE SERVICES DURING LOCKDOWN, LEVEL 4**

A nationwide lockdown came into effect at 24:00 on Thursday 26 March 2020. As from 1 May 2020 we will move to Level 4, which will continue until further notice.

This official communication has been prepared in accordance with the rules of Level 4 of the lockdown, which determines that all agriculture, hunting, forestry, fishing and related services, including the export of agricultural products are permitted. Also confirmation that all activities pertaining to the export of wine, i.e. production, processing, labelling, bottling and packaging may continue and that the transport of wine is allowed.

SAWIS continues to deliver service during the various levels of the lockdown period. A Covid-19 Risk Mitigation Protocol has been compiled and measures to ensure the safety of employees and industry roleplayers have 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 and only stop by the office when required. Administrative and support services staff that can work from home will do so. All inspectors will be 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:

Executive Manager  
Yvette van der Merwe  
Email: [yvette@sawis.co.za](mailto:yvette@sawis.co.za)  
Tel: 083 703 2718

Certification  
Yolandi Clayton  
Email: [yolandi@sawis.co.za](mailto:yolandi@sawis.co.za)  
Tel: 083 297 9109

Inspection and Registrations  
Blackie Cronje  
Email: [cronjec@sawis.co.za](mailto:cronjec@sawis.co.za)  
Tel: 083 444 6966

Information  
Charles Whitehead  
Email: [charles@sawis.co.za](mailto:charles@sawis.co.za)  
Tel: 083 414 7207

Finances  
Shireen Lewis  
Email: [shireen@sawis.co.za](mailto:shireen@sawis.co.za)  
Tel: 083 310 8837

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 level 4 of the lockdown period the following will apply.

Inspection and Certification are operational during this level of lockdown, please refer to details below.

Certification operations will continue as follows:

**Wine to be exported during level 4 of the lockdown period:**

- **It remains the responsibility of the industry roleplayers to provide firm proof of an export order.**
- Wines will be approved without sensorial evaluation.
- Wines will still have to be submitted for analysis.
- Seals will be issued and can be collected from the SAWIS premises between 8:00 and 16:30, (Monday to Thursday) and between 8:00 and 16:00 on a Friday. Please phone ahead (021 807 5734) before collection and when arriving at the gate. Do not use the buzzer as no one will respond. No visitors allowed inside the building. In the case of Robertson office please contact Carel van der Merwe (083 444 6950) to arrange for the collection of seals.
- Status quo remains with regard to BG 5, 6 and bottling notifications.
- Olifants River to be serviced on Tuesdays only. Notifications of export samples not later than Monday, 12:00.
- 

**Specific working procedures applicable for exports during level 4 of the lockdown period:**

- All applications on Wine Online continue as normal.
- Seals will be issued by way of a BG9 admin application for wine to be exported.
- No unlabelled wine (BG9 special tariff/BG9 with samples) applications will be allowed.
- Wines not yet sensorially approved to be submitted via BG11 with samples/BG11 bulk only. Please contact your inspector to collect samples for analysis. Drawing of samples and notifications to the inspectors as according to the certification manual.
- Unlabelled bottled wine already sensorially approved, 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 be dealt with in accordance with the national curfew (20:00 till 5:00) instated during level 4 of the lockdown period.

**Wine to be bottled and market ready for the local market in anticipation of level 3 of the lockdown period:**

- Seals will be issued by way of a BG9 admin application for wine to be sold locally during the lockdown period.
- No unlabelled wine (BG9 special tariff/BG9 with samples) applications will be allowed.
- Wines not yet sensorially approved will not be able to be submitted via BG11 with samples.

**Uncertified market-ready packaged wine**

All **new** applications for uncertified market-ready packaged wine to be exported will be allowed provided that it follows the same process as certified wine.

Uncertified wine sensorially approved **prior** to the lockdown may be exported.

**Bulk wine control samples**

As is currently the case, please draw the control samples and deliver it to the Wynland laboratory.

**Applying for an export certificate**

The DALRRD (DAFF) office is geared to continue with remote issuing of all export documentation. Electronic certification has been implemented on Wine Online as an urgent measure to ensure that export clearance can still continue. All clearance documentation, e.g. VI1 documentation, analyses certificates, health certificates, etc. will be issued electronically until the DALRRD offices reopen.

Stock-taking by inspection services to resume as from 4 May 2020, but in strict adherence to the SAWIS protocol and those of the roleplayers visited.

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 until further notice.

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 as far as possible 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:

André Matthee  
Director Regulatory Services  
Email: [matthee@wo.org.za](mailto:matthee@wo.org.za)  
Tel: 083 444 6963

Daniel Schietekat  
IPW Manager  
Email: [daniel@ipw.co.za](mailto:daniel@ipw.co.za)  
Tel: 082 859 4787

Peet Engelbrecht  
Financial Manager  
Email: [peet@wsb.org.za](mailto:peet@wsb.org.za)  
Tel: 083 3309 821

Olivia Poonah  
Secretary  
Email: [olivia@wsb.org.za](mailto:olivia@wsb.org.za)  
Tel: 076 758 2872

As the situation remains fluid, and as the details of level 1 to 3 are made available, 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 can continue to be operational within the confines of the different levels. If anything changes we will communicate it via our normal channels, the SAWIS website and the dedicated WineLand Covid-19 website - <http://www.wineland.co.za>.

Olivia Poonah  
Wine and Spirit Board

Yvette van der Merwe  
SAWIS

4 May 2020