



INFORMATION CIRCULAR- VACUITY LEVELS 49mm Cork Use

Prepared By: Wine Packagers of Australia for customers of contract wine packagers

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This is an important information document and should be read by bottling customers and discussed with your contract packager.

Purpose

The purpose of this Circular is to inform bottling customers of required fill levels and effect on vacuity when using 49mm length cork closures in domestic and imported glass bottles.

This information sheet sets out cork and glass variables and allowances to meet recommended vacuity levels.

Guidance

When 49mm cork is being provided by customers for use in 750mL and 1500mL domestic and imported glass bottles, required vacuity levels cannot always be achieved. Vacuity levels are recommended to allow for wine expansion under varying temperatures, reducing the possibility of wine travel, leaking or corks pushing out.

- A. Standard cork sizes are 38mm \pm 1mm and 44mm \pm 1mm
- B. Natural corks can vary \pm 1mm in length and \pm 0.5mm in diameter.
- C. Cork punch depth during bottling can vary \pm 2mm due to the density variations in natural cork.
- D. To achieve 750mL per bottle, the recommended fill height for domestically produced glass is 63mm \pm 7ml measured from the top of the bottle.
- E. To achieve 750mL per bottle, the recommended fill height for imported glass is 63mm \pm 10ml measured from the top of the bottle.
- F. The recommend vacuity levels are:
 - i. No less than 14mm @ 20⁰c for all 750 ml bottles
 - ii. No less than 25mm @ 20⁰c for all 1500ml bottles

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- G. Using a 49mm cork affects the recommended vacuity levels in standard bottles, both domestic and imported.

Responsibility

Your contract bottling company is legally responsible for filling the nominated volume of wine that is displayed on product labels as well as for the stated bottle capacity.

Due to cork and bottle manufacturers' tolerance levels, it is their experience that using 49mm cork may not provide suitable vacuity.

Your contract packager cannot be responsible for reduced vacuity levels where a 49mm cork has been used in conjunction with standard domestic and imported glass bottles.

We encourage all bottling customers to ask for assistance in the use of cork size with their contract packaging team.

References

2009 National Measurement Legislation

Winemakers Federation of Australia – Wine Packaging Guidelines November 2012

www.wfa.org.au