

Winegrape Shipment Across the Border – Washington, United States Export for British Columbia, Canada Import

March 2024

Updated September 2025

In recognition of the January 2024 prolonged cold snap and winter damage to B.C. vineyards, the wine industry of British Columbia, Canada, projected a significant reduction in winegrape production in 2024 that continued into 2025. With close proximity, the winegrape growers of Washington, United States, stand ready to support our neighboring wine industry in order to alleviate a shortage in Canada.

The Washington wine industry is growing and producing beautiful red and white (*Vitis*) varieties just over the border, including without limitation, the following specific varieties in significant volumes:

- White varieties: Chardonnay, Chenin Blanc, Gewürztraminer, Sauvignon Blanc, Semillon, Riesling, Pinot Gris, Roussanne, Viognier, Muscat, and other white varieties.
- Red varieties: Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Pinot Noir, Syrah, Lemberger, Cabernet Franc, Sangiovese, Malbec, Mourvèdre, Petit Verdot, Grenache, Zinfandel, and other red varieties.

Washington winegrape growers did not experience the same level of winter damage as British Columbia, and Washington has winegrape supply available to assist our bordering wine industry, for reinforcement of agricultural products and wines from our neighboring area of the globe. The Washington-British Columbia border crossing further promotes a reduced environmental impact of such winegrape shipments.

These materials provide background resources for a coordinated Washington, United States winegrapes export for British Columbia, Canada import. In support of the wine industry, Washington Winegrowers Association gathered and assembled these resources with the assistance of Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA), United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS), United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA AMS), and other industry and regulatory partners.

Washington Winegrowers Association hosts the Grape & Wine Dating Service, where the industry can post product listings free of charge, specifying the *product needs (selling, looking to buy), *product type (winegrape, bulk wine, shiner), *product vintage and varietal, and *appellation. The Grape & Wine Dating Service is a free industry service to facilitate buyer and seller matchings, and is accessible to all at: <https://dating.wawinegrowers.org/>.

The table below summarizes the regulatory requirements for winegrape shipment across the border:

- **U.S. TABLE:** Washington, United States export of whole winegrapes, crushed winegrapes (must), and crushed and pressed winegrapes (juice) into Canada
- **CANADA TABLE:** British Columbia, Canada import of whole winegrapes, crushed winegrapes (must), and crushed and pressed winegrapes (juice) from Washington, United States

U.S. TABLE: Washington, United States Requirements for Washington Export into Canada

	<u>Whole winegrapes</u>	<u>Crushed winegrapes (must)</u>	<u>Crushed and pressed winegrapes (juice)</u>
<i>Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA)</i>	Unrestricted and no specific paperwork or inspection required by WSDA for Washington export of whole winegrapes into Canada	Unrestricted and no specific paperwork or inspection required by WSDA for Washington export of crushed winegrapes (must) into Canada	Unrestricted and no specific paperwork or inspection required by WSDA for Washington export of crushed and pressed winegrapes (juice) into Canada
<i>United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS)</i>	Unrestricted and no specific paperwork or inspection required by USDA APHIS for Washington export of whole winegrapes into Canada <u>OPTIONAL Phytosanitary Certificate</u>, whole winegrapes only: Upon request, a Phytosanitary Certificate for the whole winegrape shipment for Washington export into Canada can be issued, which Phytosanitary Certificate will necessitate an inspection for compliance <u>Wood packaging material only</u>: continental United States is exempt from ISPM 15, and import/export paperwork must reference “<i>Wood Packaging Material of Continental U.S. Origin</i>”	Unrestricted and no specific paperwork or inspection required by USDA APHIS for Washington export of crushed winegrapes (must) into Canada	Unrestricted and no specific paperwork or inspection required by USDA APHIS for Washington export of crushed and pressed winegrapes (juice) into Canada
<i>United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA AMS)</i>	Unrestricted and no specific paperwork required by USDA AMS for Washington export of whole winegrapes into Canada Note: Canada Ministerial Exemption (outlined below) is advised for whole	Unrestricted and no specific paperwork required by USDA AMS for Washington export of crushed winegrapes (must) into Canada	Unrestricted and no specific paperwork required by USDA AMS for Washington export of crushed and pressed winegrapes (juice) into Canada

	winegrapes for Canada import from Washington		
CANADA TABLE: British Columbia, Canada Requirements for Canada Import from Washington			
	<u>Whole winegrapes</u>	<u>Crushed winegrapes (must)</u>	<u>Crushed and pressed winegrapes (juice)</u>
<i>Fruit and Vegetable Dispute Resolution Corporation (DRC)</i>	Whole winegrapes only: Canada Importer has <u>DRC membership</u> number, or alternatively that the Canada Importer is DRC membership exempt		
<i>Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)</i>	Canada Importer has a Safe Food for Canadians license (<u>SFC license</u>) Whole winegrapes only: Canada Importer has an approved <u>Canada Ministerial Exemption</u> for alleviating a shortage in Canada <u>Import declaration</u> for whole winegrapes shipment into Canada <u>Wood packaging material only</u>: continental United States is exempt from ISPM 15, and import/export paperwork must reference “<i>Wood Packaging Material of Continental U.S. Origin</i>”	Canada Importer has a Safe Food for Canadians license (<u>SFC license</u>) <u>Import declaration</u> for crushed winegrapes (must) shipment into Canada	Canada Importer has a Safe Food for Canadians license (<u>SFC license</u>) <u>Import declaration</u> for crushed and pressed winegrapes (juice) shipment into Canada

The following materials provide further checklists and explanation of the regulatory requirements for winegrape shipment across the border:

- **U.S. CHECKLIST:** Washington, United States export of whole winegrapes, crushed winegrapes (must), and crushed and pressed winegrapes (juice) into Canada
 - **CANADA CHECKLIST:** British Columbia, Canada import of whole winegrapes, crushed winegrapes (must), and crushed and pressed winegrapes (juice) from Washington, United States
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U.S. CHECKLIST of Washington, United States requirements needed by the Washington Exporter:

- I. Requirements by Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA):
 - *Whole winegrapes:* Unrestricted and no specific paperwork or inspection required by WSDA for Washington export into Canada
 - *Crushed winegrapes/must:* Unrestricted and no specific paperwork or inspection required by WSDA for Washington export into Canada
 - *Crushed and pressed winegrapes/juice:* Unrestricted and no specific paperwork or inspection required by WSDA for Washington export into Canada
- II. Requirements by United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS):
 - *Whole winegrapes:* Unrestricted and no specific paperwork or inspection required by USDA APHIS for Washington export into Canada
 - Whole winegrapes only: Upon request, a Phytosanitary Certificate for the whole winegrape shipment for Washington export into Canada can be issued, which Phytosanitary Certificate will necessitate an inspection by WSDA as administrator for USDA APHIS to ensure compliance with applicable rules and regulations.
 - *Crushed winegrapes/must:* Unrestricted and no specific paperwork or inspection required by USDA APHIS for Washington export into Canada
 - *Crushed and pressed winegrapes/juice:* Unrestricted and no specific paperwork or inspection required by USDA APHIS for Washington export into Canada
- III. Requirements by United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA AMS):
 - *Whole winegrapes:* Unrestricted and no specific paperwork required by USDA AMS for Washington export into Canada; however Canada Ministerial Exemption (discussed below) is advised for whole winegrapes for Canada import from Washington.
 - *Crushed winegrapes/must:* Unrestricted and no specific paperwork required by USDA AMS for Washington export into Canada.

- *Crushed and pressed winegrapes/juice:* Unrestricted and no specific paperwork required by USDA AMS for Washington export into Canada.

I. Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) resources:

For more information on WSDA's Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Program, see [Contact | Washington State Department of Agriculture](#).

WSDA contact person on Washington winegrape shipment across the United States/Canada border:

*Robert Newell, Program Manager – Fruit & Vegetable Inspection Program
Washington State Department of Agriculture
Email: RNewell@agr.wa.gov*

II. United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) resources:

For more information on the USDA APHIS export program, see: [USDA APHIS | Plant Health Export Information](#).

USDA APHIS Phytosanitary Certificate (Voluntary and Optional for whole winegrapes): The contact person for USDA APHIS Phytosanitary Certificate for export shipments, administered by WSDA for Washington exports, which Phytosanitary Certificates are voluntary and optional for whole winegrapes shipment for Washington export into Canada is Robert Newell, Program Manager – Fruit & Vegetable Inspection Program, WSDA (email RNewell@agr.wa.gov).

Wood Packaging Material: Canada, in conjunction with the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO), adopted measures in line with ISPM 15 for wood packaging material. Wood packaging material origins from the continental United States are exempt from the ISPM 15 requirement for treatment and official marking. As such, for wood packaging material from the continental United States that is part of the Washington winegrape import shipment to Canada, the Washington export and Canada import paperwork must specifically reference “*Wood Packaging Material of Continental U.S. Origin*”. For more information on wood packaging material for Washington export to Canada, see: [USDA APHIS | Canada WPM Requirements](#).

USDA APHIS contact person on Washington winegrape shipment across the United States/Canada border:

*Daryl Petrey, Export Certification Specialist
USDA APHIS
Email: daryl.petrey@usda.gov*

III. United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA AMS) resources:

For more information on USDA AMS, see: [Home | Agricultural Marketing Service \(usda.gov\)](#).

USDA AMS contact person on Washington winegrape shipment across the United States/Canada border:

*Todd Mattos, NW Federal Program Manager
USDA AMS SCP SCI Division
Email: todd.mattos@usda.gov*

CANADA CHECKLIST of British Columbia, Canada requirements needed by the Canada Importer:

- I. Requirements by Fruit and Vegetable Dispute Resolution Corporation (DRC):
 - *Whole winegrapes only:* Canada Importer has DRC membership number, or alternatively that the Canada Importer is DRC membership exempt
- II. Requirements by Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA):
 - *Whole winegrapes:*
 - Canada Importer has a Safe Food for Canadians license (SFC license)
 - Whole winegrapes only: Canada Importer has an approved Canada Ministerial Exemption for alleviating a shortage in Canada
 - Canada Importer has an Import declaration for shipment into Canada
 - *Crushed winegrapes/must:*
 - Canada Importer has a Safe Food for Canadians license (SFC license)
 - Canada Importer has an Import declaration for shipment into Canada
 - *Crushed and pressed winegrapes/juice:*
 - Canada Importer has a Safe Food for Canadians license (SFC license)
 - Canada Importer has an Import declaration for shipment into Canada

I. Fruit and Vegetable Dispute Resolution Corporation (DRC) resources:

Fruit and Vegetable Dispute Resolution Corporation (DRC) membership: In connection with Canada import of Washington whole winegrapes, the Canada Importer must have a Fruit and Vegetable Dispute Resolution Corporation (DRC) membership number, or alternatively demonstrate that the Canada Importer is DRC membership exempt.

For more information on the Fruit and Vegetable Dispute Resolution Corporation (DRC), including the active DRC membership list and to become a DRC member, see: [Home - Fruit and Vegetable Dispute Resolution Corporation \(fvdr.com\)](#).

II. Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) resources:

Safe Food for Canadians license (SFC license): The Canada Importer must have a Safe Food for Canadians license (SFC license) issued by CFIA, to accompany the Canada import of Washington whole winegrapes, crushed winegrapes/must, and/or crushed and pressed winegrapes/juice.

For more information on the SFC license, see: [Food licences - Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(canada.ca\)](https://www.inspection.gc.ca/food-safety/food-labelling/food-labelling-licences/food-labelling-licences-canada/canada-ca). The Canada Importer can create a My CFIA account and business profile by going to: [My CFIA account - Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(canada.ca\)](https://www.inspection.gc.ca/food-safety/food-labelling/food-labelling-licences/food-labelling-licences-canada/canada-ca). When applying for a license, ensure that the SFC license covers importing food as well as the food commodity or commodities being imported.

Canada Ministerial Exemption: In connection with Canada import of Washington whole winegrapes, the Canada Importer must have an approved Canada Ministerial Exemption issued by CFIA. A Ministerial Exemption may be issued by CFIA to exempt food commodities (such as Washington imported whole winegrapes) from the regulated requirements for grade, container size and labelling under the Safe Food for Canadians Regulations if required in order to alleviate a shortage in Canada. Note that food safety requirements are never exempted.

For more information on the CFIA Ministerial Exemptions for alleviating a shortage in Canada, see: [Ministerial Exemptions for alleviating a shortage in Canada - Canadian Food Inspection Agency](https://www.inspection.gc.ca/food-safety/food-labelling/food-labelling-licences/food-labelling-licences-canada/canada-ca). Contact information for Canada Ministerial Exemptions may be found at: [Centre of Administration for Permissions - Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(canada.ca\)](https://www.inspection.gc.ca/food-safety/food-labelling/food-labelling-licences/food-labelling-licences-canada/canada-ca). A copy of the signed approved Ministerial Exemption must accompany the shipment load at the border.

Practical recommendation: Please email a copy of the signed approved Canada Ministerial Exemption to Robert Newell, Program Manager – Fruit & Vegetable Inspection Program, WSDA (email RNewell@agr.wa.gov), to facilitate coordination at the border.

Import Declaration: The Canada Importer must provide an Import Declaration in connection with the import shipment of Washington whole winegrapes, crushed winegrapes/must, and/or crushed and pressed winegrapes/juice into Canada.

The Canada Importer's SFC license number is entered as part of an Import Declaration in the applicable AIRS Registration Type (#893 - Safe Food for Canadians License) for the purpose of facilitating release of the import shipment of Washington winegrapes. All other pertinent information about the import shipment must be included on the Import Declaration. Note that there are specific instructions depending on method of Import Declaration, whether by Paper Declaration, Integrated Import Declaration (IID), or Electronic Submission Declaration (EDI).

The Canada Importer is responsible for ensuring that the Washington winegrapes imported into Canada comply with the requirements of all applicable Canadian legislation, including the Safe Food for Canadians Act and Regulations, and the Food and Drugs Act and Regulations.

Canada import shipments are subject to inspection by CFIA. The origin of the material (Washington State, United States) must be clearly identified on shipping documents. The imported Washington winegrapes and packaging materials must be free from soil, pests, leaves and/or plant debris.

Note that the Canada Importer is responsible for referencing the appropriate Harmonized System (HS) codes in CFIA's Automated Import Reference System (AIRS), in relation to the Washington winegrapes imported into Canada as well as properly declaring the product and intended end use at time of import. For more information on CFIA's AIRS user guide, see: [Automated Import Reference System: User Guide \(inspection.gc.ca\)](https://inspection.gc.ca/automated-import-reference-system/user-guide).

Below are references to some of the chapters in the CFIA's AIRS, which may be relevant to imported Washington winegrapes. The HS codes within these chapters contain the import requirements specific for the particular Washington product to be imported into Canada.

- For fresh winegrapes (including bulk grapes for wine making):
 - 080610 Grapes (fresh) (*Vitis* spp.)
- Unfermented winegrape must/ winegrape juice:
 - 200900 Fruit or nut juices (including grape must and coconut water) and vegetable juices, unfermented and not containing added spirit, whether or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter.
 - 200969 Grape juice: Other.
 - 200961 Grape juice: Of a Brix value not exceeding 30.
- Fermented product (including fermented winegrape must):
 - 220421 Other wine; grape must with fermentation prevented or arrested by the addition of alcohol: In containers holding 2 litres or less.
 - 220429 Other wine; grape must with fermentation prevented or arrested by the addition of alcohol: Other.
 - For fermented products, refer to Division 2 of the Food and Drug Regulations, specifically section B.02.100 [S]. Wine, for the standards and other applicable requirements for alcoholic beverages: [Food and Drug Regulations \(justice.gc.ca\)](https://laws.justice.gc.ca/food-and-drug-regulations) and [B.02.100 \[S\]. Wine](https://laws.justice.gc.ca/B.02.100).

Wood Packaging Material: Canada, in conjunction with the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO), adopted measures in line with ISPM 15 for wood packaging material. Wood packaging material origins from the continental United States are exempt from the ISPM 15 requirement for treatment and official marking. As such, for wood packaging material from the continental United States that is part of the Washington winegrape import shipment, the Washington export and Canada import paperwork must specifically reference "*Wood Packaging Material of Continental U.S. Origin*". For more information on wood packaging material for Canada import of Washington shipments, see: [USDA APHIS | Canada WPM Requirements](https://aphis.usda.gov/canada-wpm-requirements).

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About Washington Winegrowers Association

Founded in 1983, the Washington Winegrowers Association supports winegrape growers, vintners, and allied members by addressing industry needs and collaborating to enhance the Washington wine industry. Washington Winegrowers Association provides state and federal advocacy and education on industry matters, serving as a unifying voice and stewarding relationships across the wine industry, with its members, growers, vintners, policymakers, educational institutions, and other industry partners.

To learn more, visit www.WAwinegrowers.org.