

Quarterly Newsletter

2nd quarter

Lightweight Glass: Details and Dates

For several months now, we have required suppliers of all red, white and rosé wines in 750 ml bottles and sold as regular (RA) or continuous replenishment specialty (SA) products to use lightweight glass bottles.

With an eye to the future, we have prepared a calendar and defined several conditions for extending the requirement to all wines that retail for \$20 and under, to other bottle sizes and to the RA and SA top sellers irrespective of price.

The company considers that, to be eco-responsible, bottles must meet the following criteria:

Bottle size	Max. weight	Tolerance
750 ml	420 g	15 g
750 ml flute	460 g	15 g
1 L	550 g	20 g
1.5 L	700 g	25 g

As the SAQ is committed to reducing the amount of glass on the market and selling more wines in containers with fewer environmental impacts, we are taking concrete action to reduce the carbon footprint (manufacture and shipping) of the bottles we sell. By reducing bottle weight, these initiatives will, also lead to an improvement in product case handling, one of our occupational health and safety goals.

Here are the implementation dates for the required maximum weights:

Price	Effective date	Penalty*
\$ 16 and under	March 31, 2020	April 2021
\$ 16 to \$ 18	May 31, 2021	September 2021
\$ 18 to \$ 20	December 31, 2021	April 2022
1 L and 1.5 L	December 31, 2021	

*The details of the penalties will be announced in the coming months.

To be exempted from these requirements, the supplier must demonstrate that the specifications for the wine's appellation require use of a non-compliant bottle size and weight. Also, some bottles may be excluded from the requirement but not from the penalty.

An announcement will be sent to all agents by the end of October 2020 to inform them of the status of the bottles they represent (latest weighed weight, exception granted or not).

Next steps

Once the next assortment plans are published (winter 2021), we will also require that all batch order specialty (SL) wines that retail for \$20 and under comply with the eco-responsible weights table (see above) in order to be considered.

The SAQ will continue to raise partners' awareness and encourage the use of lightweight glass in all product categories and distribution networks. We also want to extend the process to other alternative containers and packaging.

To reach our goal will require the cooperation of all parties.