

Wine Industry Code of Practice

A registered industry code of practice to support parties involved in the wine industry manage risks associated with the transport of grapes, wine, and associated material by heavy vehicles.



On the 20th December 2024, the 'Wine Industry Registered Industry Code of Practice' (Wine Code) was endorsed for registration by the NHVR. The Wine Code contains practical guidance, primarily relating to activities during vintage periods, on how to manage heavy vehicle transport activities associated with the transport of grapes, wine, and associated material.

The Wine Code may also be used as admissible evidence in a proceeding in accordance with s.632 of the HVNL, as a Registered Industry Code of Practice establishes what is reasonably "known about a hazard or risk, risk assessment, or risk control" and "what is reasonably practicable" in meeting your primary duty obligations outlined in s.26C.

So why is this important?

If you are a party in a supply chain where grapes, wine, and associated material is transported, particularly during vintage periods, the 'Wine Code' establishes what you should know about the risk of transporting these products, and what is reasonably practicable to do in preventing it.

Overview

The 'Wine Code' explores unique risks in the wine industry, such as transporting raw materials and finished products during vintage (harvest), bulk liquid loads, and high variability in equipment and workforce expertise. It highlights the importance of implementing and continuously improving safety measures, ensuring compliance, and maintaining communication across all parties to uphold transport safety standards.

Example wine industry parties include:

- Grape growers
- Vineyard contractors
- Harvester operators
- Wineries
- Loaders, unloaders, and depot managers
- Transporters

Unique Challenges in Wine Industry

- Seasonal transport peaks during harvest.
- Handling of semi-liquid loads and grape juice spillage risks.
- Time-sensitive deliveries with narrow operational windows.
- Variability in transport equipment and workforce experience.
- Complex supply chains spanning agriculture, manufacturing, retail, and tourism.

The next page gives a brief summary of the practical guidance within the 'Wine Code', including the activities in the wine industry that parties have a primary duty under Heavy Vehicle National Law to manage, the hazards associated with those activities, and the controls proposed to manage those hazards.

In total the Wine Code includes 12 activities, 43 hazards and numerous controls. However, it should be remembered that the Wine Code is not exhaustive – while it includes the main hazards, stakeholders should still consider their own circumstances when managing and responding to risks.



For more information visit:

- [Wine Industry Code of Practice](#)
- [CoRsafe Codes of Practice Resource Hub](#)



1. ACTIVITY: WORKING WITH OTHER BUSINESSES

Hazards: Lack of information being provided to relevant parties, and access to real-time information.

Controls: Identifying, recording and sharing information with the right parties in a timely (or real-time) way, and using historical data to support planning.

2. ACTIVITY: ENGAGING TRANSPORTERS, HARVESTERS, AND VINEYARD CONTRACTORS

Hazards: Safe heavy vehicle operation, knowledge and training.

Controls: Using experienced or accredited transporters, setting clear expectations in documented agreements, training, supervising and providing instruction to staff, establishing procedures and giving feedback on unsafe practices.

3. ACTIVITY: TRANSPORTING GROWER'S OWN GRAPES

Hazards: Poor understanding of requirements when using smaller heavy vehicles.

Controls: Ensuring vehicles have sufficient capacity, proper load restraint, and licensed, experienced drivers.

4. ACTIVITY: SELECTING HEAVY VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT

Hazards: Using the wrong vehicle or equipment for the task.

Controls: Using vehicles and equipment that are suitable and serviceable, and seeking advice from professionals if unsure.

5. ACTIVITY: HEAVY VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

Hazards: Vehicle wear while not in use, vehicle servicing and modifications.

Controls: Inspections (before use and ongoing), properly setting up service vehicles, using qualified experts/engineers for works done and ensuring that modifications meet relevant laws/standards, such as VSB6.

6. ACTIVITY: MANAGING PREMISES ACCESSED BY HEAVY VEHICLES

Hazards: Heavy vehicle and pedestrian interaction, road quality/suitability, traffic management and driver navigation.

Controls: Separating pedestrians and heavy vehicles, having good traffic management that is appropriately communicated, reporting/monitoring/fixing any road issues, and providing clear instruction to drivers.

7. ACTIVITY: ROUTE PLANNING

Hazards: Unsafe or unsuitable routes.

Controls: Checking road conditions from/to inbound and outbound sites, communicating with relevant parties, and reporting identified issues.

8. ACTIVITY: SCHEDULING TRANSPORT TASKS

Hazards: Factors that can cause disruption or delay, queues, or slower processing time, and pressures on drivers, including by wineries.

Controls: Creating realistic schedules in advance, extending pickup/delivery windows, conducting accurate yield estimates, having plans in place for delays, reducing delays where able, and providing information to relevant parties.

9. ACTIVITY: LOADING AND UNLOADING PROCESSES

Hazards: Licensing and competency of loaders/unloaders, vehicle roll away, overfilling and underfilling of bins or trailers, suitability/serviceability of equipment and restraint of product.

Controls: Training and skill verification, immobilisation technology, procedures around loading/unloading, storage and quality of equipment and loading plans.

10. ACTIVITY: MANAGING LOADS DURING TRANSPORT

Hazards: Knowledge of transporting grapes/liquids, and risks associated with transporting this, including finished products.

Controls: Training and experience, using appropriate and serviceable equipment, giving information to relevant parties, and having procedures in place for key activities.

11. ACTIVITY: LOAD MASS MANAGEMENT

Hazards: Mass of inbound and outbound heavy vehicles.

Controls: Using the correct equipment, weighing product/vehicles, not overfilling equipment/trailers, and providing appropriate information to relevant parties.

12. ACTIVITY: MANAGING DRIVER FATIGUE

Hazards: Lack of knowledge around fatigue and the impact on drivers, things that may impact fatigue, planning for work and rest, and managing fatigue for people with other roles who also have to drive.

Controls: Procedures and processes for assessing, managing and reporting fatigue risks, setting clear expectations in documented agreements with parties, creating appropriate schedules, educating employees, and managing delays.