

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: South Africa Published New Regulation on Vinegar and Imitation Vinegar

Country: South Africa - Republic of

Post: Pretoria

Report Category: FAIRS Subject Report

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Report Highlights:

South Africa's Ministry of Agriculture published regulations regarding the grading, packing, and marking of vinegar and imitation vinegar intended for sale in South Africa. These regulations took effect on March 13, 2026. The regulation prohibits the use of class, grade, or quality claims and specifies the format for how acidity must be labeled.

On March 13, 2026, the South African Ministry of Agriculture published regulations relating to the classification, packing, and marking of vinegar and imitation vinegar intended for sale in South Africa. These regulations fall under Section 15 of the Agricultural Product Standards Act of 1990 (Act No. 119 of 1990) and have been in effect since March 13, 2026.

The regulation outlines the following key amendments

- Spirit vinegar definition

Spirit vinegar is required to contain vinegar which is solely made from distilled alcohol derived from cane sugar, molasses, grapes, grain, or any other appropriate natural plant source.

- Added foodstuff

Where vinegar or imitation vinegar contains added foodstuffs, the class designation must be followed by the wording “with [name of added foodstuff].” The description should be in the immediate vicinity and or as part of the class description, with the difference in the letter sizes as prescribed in the regulation. One source notes that the intent is to ensure that consumers can easily identify the base vinegar while also clearly seeing information on flavor components.

- Acidity of the vinegar

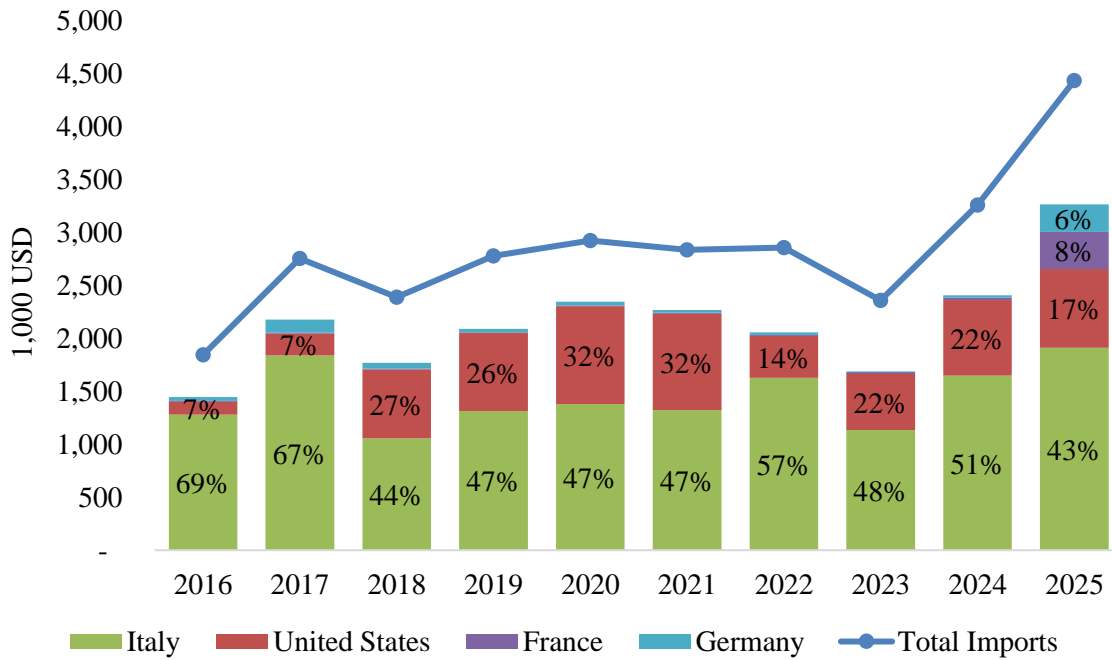
The acidity of vinegar or imitation vinegar must be indicated as “X% Acidity” or “Acidity X%,” where X represents the acidity. For imitation vinegars, the labeling must state “X% Acetic Acid” or “Acetic Acid X%.”

- Class, quality, or grade implying terms

The regulation states that any class, grade, or quality-implicating terms, such as “natural,” “super,” “ultra,” “extra,” “special,” “premium,” “finest,” “real,” “genuine,” or “pure,” or related terms, may not be used unless they form part of a trademark or brand name used to identify the vinegar or imitation vinegar.

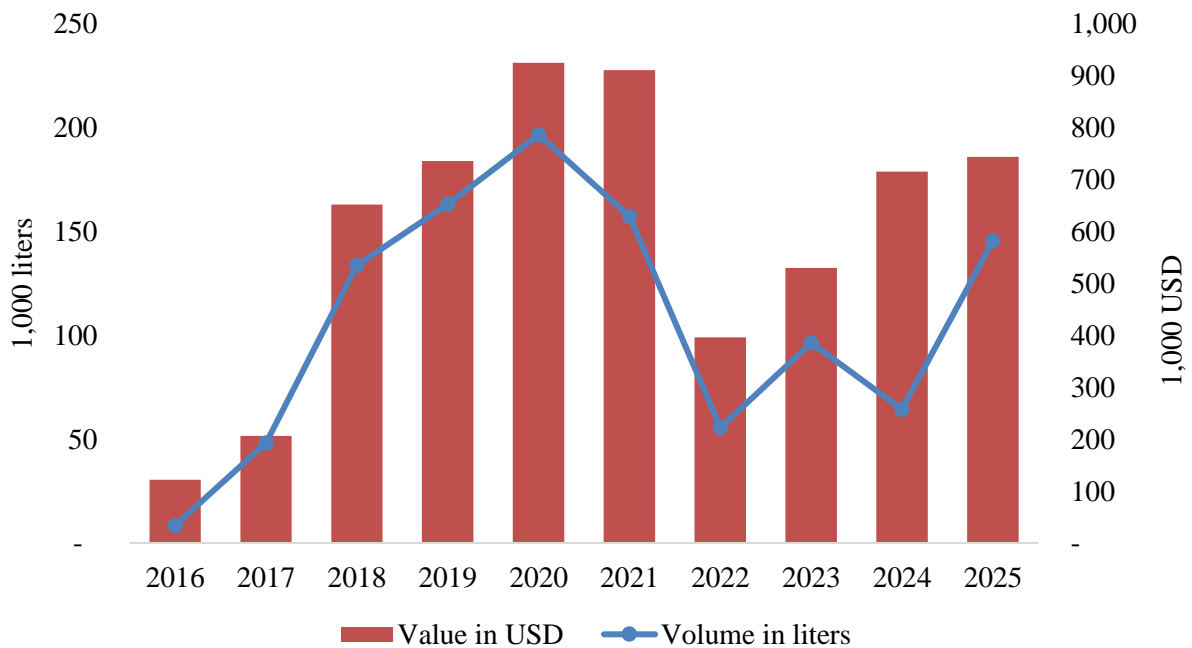
The United States is one of the leading exporters of Vinegar and Substitutes for Vinegar obtained from acetic acid to South Africa (see figure 1 and figure 2). In 2025, the United States exported 145,441 liters of in 2025, increasing by 145 percent from 2024.

Figure 1: Top Suppliers of Vinegar and Substitutes for Vinegar Obtained from Acetic Acid to South Africa



Source: FAS Pretoria using Trade Data Monitor, LLC.

Figure 2: U.S. Exports of Vinegar and Substitutes for Vinegar Obtained from Acetic Acid to South Africa



Source: FAS Pretoria using Trade Data Monitor, LLC.

Attachments:

[Regulations Regarding the Classification, Packing, and Marking of Vinegar and Imitation Vinegar Intended for Sale in South Africa.pdf](#)