

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Vietnam Renews Food Safety Standards for Alcoholic Beverages

Country: Vietnam

Post: Hanoi

Report Category: Administrative, Policy and Program Announcements, Beverages, Wine, Trade Policy Monitoring

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Report Highlights:

Vietnam's Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT) has issued National Technical Regulation QCVN 30:2026/BCT on Alcoholic Beverages. The regulation will take effect January 1, 2027, replacing QCVN 6-3:2010/BYT. This report provides an overview of the new safety standards for alcoholic beverages.

Summary

Vietnam regulates alcoholic beverages under its Food Safety Law and Quality Law. The Ministry of Health (MOH) first issued national technical regulations for alcoholic beverages in 2010 as QCVN 6-3:2010/BYT. Following Vietnam's 2018 reform of the Food Safety Law, regulatory oversight of alcoholic beverages transferred from MOH to MOIT.

According to MOIT, after fifteen years of implementation, QCVN 6-3:2010/BYT had become outdated relative to modern manufacturing practices and international regulatory norms. MOIT notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of the draft technical regulation on December 4, 2025 (G/TBT/N/VNM/386). MOIT officially issued the new standard, QCVN 30:2026/BCT, on June 30, 2026. The regulation takes effect January 1, 2027, replacing the fifteen-year-old QCVN 6-3:2010/BYT.

Alcoholic Beverages Categories Regulated under QCVN 30:2026/BCT

QCVN 30:2026/BCT applies to both domestically produced and imported alcoholic beverages sold in the Vietnamese market. The regulation introduces several new category definitions, including fortified wine, aromatized wine, and white spirit — the latter comprising more granular sub-categories than under the previous standard. It also establishes **a minimum alcohol content threshold of 8.5 percent for wine**, a specification absent from MOH's 2010 version.

Article I.3 of QCVN 30:2026/BCT defines the following categories:

- **Food-grade ethanol:** Ethanol meeting food-use requirements, obtained by distillation of fermented liquids derived from starch or various sugars.
- **Beer:** Draft/draught beer; canned and bottled beer.
- **Wine:** Non-distilled, with an actual alcohol content of at least 8.5 percent by volume.
- **Sparkling wine:** Wine exhibiting effervescence upon opening due to the release of carbon dioxide (CO₂).
- **Fortified wine/liqueur wine:** Wine to which spirits (typically brandy) have been added to raise alcohol content to between 15 and 22 percent by volume.
- **Aromatised wine:** Wine or sparkling wine with added natural or artificial flavorings, with an alcohol content of 14.5 to 22 percent by volume.
- **Spirit drinks:** Non-distilled alcoholic beverages excluded; alcohol content of at least 15 percent by volume, including:
 - White spirits (white distilled spirit, white blended spirit, and vodka)
 - Wine spirit (distilled from wine)
 - Brandy/Weinbrand

- Grape marc spirit
- Fruit spirit
- Cider spirit and perry spirit (distilled from low-alcohol cider or perry, retaining the characteristic aroma and flavor of the source fruit)
- London gin

MOIT emphasized that the explicit codification of the white spirits definition is intended to close loopholes previously exploited by local and village-scale liquor producers. Under the new sub-category, local producers must now meet the same food safety standards as modern manufacturers — particularly the maximum methanol limits for grain-based spirits — which will likely require local distilleries to upgrade distillation equipment to more effectively filter volatile toxic compounds.

New Methanol Limits (Effective from January 1, 2027)

While maintaining the existing methanol limits for wine, QCVN 30:2026/BCT significantly tightens methanol limits for food-grade ethanol and distilled spirits. All values are measured in mg per liter of 100 percent pure (absolute) alcohol.

Product / Raw Material Category	Max Methanol Limit (mg/L)	Notes
Food-grade Ethanol (blending base)	≤ 300	Tightened from ≤ 500 mg/L under QCVN 6-3:2010/BYT
Wine spirit	$\leq 2,000$	Tightened from $\leq 3,000$ mg/L (3 g/L) under QCVN 6-3:2010/BYT
White distilled liquor from grain (e.g., rice wine)	≤ 600	Substantial reduction from the prior 15,000 mg/L ceiling under QCVN 6-3:2010/BYT
White distilled liquor from other raw materials	$\leq 2,000$	Substantial reduction from the prior 15,000 mg/L ceiling under QCVN 6-3:2010/BYT

This restructuring replaces the previous single blanket methanol ceiling applied to all traditional clear liquors, introducing product-specific accountability in its place.

Heavy Metals and Mycotoxins — Deferred to General Food Regulations

QCVN 30:2026/BCT maintains the **maximum lead limit of 0.2 mg/L for wine** by cross-referencing QCVN 8-2:2011/BYT, MOH's Technical Regulation on Heavy Metal Contamination Limits in Food.

The regulation also newly incorporates mycotoxin limits by referencing QCVN 8-1:2011/BYT, MOH's Technical Regulation on Mycotoxin Contamination Limits in Food — specifically, an **ochratoxin A limit of 2 µg/kg applicable to wine, sparkling wine, and aromatised wine**.

Expanding the Permissible Food Additives List

QCVN 30:2026/BCT expands the list of permitted food additives for alcoholic beverages by referencing MOH's regulations on additives approved for food use, as stipulated in Circular 24/2019/TT-BYT, Circular 17/2023/TT-BYT, and Circular 08/2024/TT-BYT.

Testing Methods

QCVN 30:2026/BCT has updated testing methods in alignment with Commission Regulation (EC) No 2870/2000 (amended 2023) and recognized international laboratory standards (TCVN, ISO, and AOAC).

Labeling, Product Declaration, and Traceability

QCVN 30:2026/BCT updates new compliance requirements under Section IV, including the following:

- **Labeling:** Alcoholic beverage products must be labeled in compliance with Decree 37/2026/NĐ-CP, dated January 23, 2026, which provides the Government's guidance implementing the Amended Law on Product and Goods Quality.
- **Product Declaration:** Prior to being placed on the market, alcoholic beverage products — whether imported, domestically produced, or domestically traded — must undergo product declaration in accordance with QCVN 30:2026/BCT. The regulation provides a 12-month transitional grace period from its effective date (January 1, 2027) for products that self-declared prior to the circular's issuance. Consequently, most alcoholic beverages currently on the market will be subject to re-testing and re-declaration of conformity against QCVN 30:2026/BCT's safety standards once the transition period ends.
- **Traceability:** The 2026 regulation introduces an explicit traceability requirement not present in prior regulations; however, it currently provides no implementing guidance or defined regulatory basis for compliance.

FAS Vietnam continues to monitor and report on the implementation of this technical regulation. Should U.S. exporters have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us at: aghamoi@usda.gov

Attachments:

[Unofficial translation - QCVN30-2026.docx](#)