Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 503/2014 of 8 May 2014 approving minor amendments to the specification for a name entered in the register of protected designations of origin and protected geographical indications (Muscat du Ventoux (PDO))

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) No 503/2014

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 November 2012 on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs[(1)], and in particular the second subparagraph of Article 53(2) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Pursuant to the first subparagraph of Article 53(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012, the Commission has examined France's application for the approval of amendments to the specification for the protected designation of origin ‘Muscat du Ventoux’, registered under Commission Regulation (EC) No 378/1999[(2)].

(2) The purpose of the application is to amend the specification by giving more detailed information on the product description, geographical area, proof of origin, method of production, labelling, national requirements and the contact details of the structures responsible for monitoring the designation and the applicant group, and by removing the requirement for packaging in the area.

(3) The Commission has examined the amendments in question and concluded that they are justified. Since the amendment is minor within the meaning of the third subparagraph of Article 53(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012, the Commission may approve it without following the procedure set out in Articles 50 and 52 of the Regulation,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The specification for the protected geographical indication ‘Muscat du Ventoux’ is hereby amended in accordance with Annex I to this Regulation.

Article 2

Annex II to this Regulation contains the consolidated Single Document setting out the main points of the specification.

***Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 503/2014. (See end of Document for details)*

Article 3

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 8 May 2014.

For the Commission,

On behalf of the President,

Dacian CIOLOȘ

Member of the Commission

***Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 503/2014. (See end of Document for details)*

ANNEX I

The following amendments to the specification for the protected designation of origin ‘Muscat du Ventoux’ are approved:

1. Description of product

The national provisions defining the registered designation of origin ‘Muscat du Ventoux’, particularly the analytical characteristics relating to the designation (refractometric index, sugar/acid ratio) and the characteristics relating to the bunch (shape, minimum weight) have been added to the product description. These elements already featured in the specifications registered at EU level under the heading ‘Method of production’.

2. Definition of the geographical area

The stages that must take place in the geographical area are listed; this list comes from the application of the provisions set out in the method of production.

The list of communes which make up the geographical area included in the specifications is based on the list in the Decree of 22 August 1997 defining the AOC (*appellation d'origine contrôlée*, registered designation of origin). A previous error in determining the number of communes in the geographical area is corrected.

The specification clarifies how to determine which parcels are suitable for producing the designation.

3. Evidence that the product originates from the geographical area

Owing to developments in national legislation and regulations, the text under the heading ‘Evidence that the product originates from the defined geographical area’ has been consolidated to bring together, in particular, provisions on declaration requirements and the keeping of registers for tracing the product and monitoring production conditions.

These amendments result from the reform of the system for inspecting designations of origin introduced by Order No 2006-1547 of 7 December 2006 on enhancing the value of agricultural, forestry, food and marine products.

In addition, the aspects relating to the product's history have been moved to the ‘Link with the geographical area’ section.

4. Method of production

The provisions set out in the initial decree concerning the recognition of the registered designation of origin ‘Muscat du Ventoux’, which was annexed to the initial request for recognition of the designation as a PDO, have been added to the ‘Method of production’ section, in particular on:

— the minimum age of the vines for entry into production;
— the densities of planting;
— the pruning methods;
— the authorised vegetation height and number of bunches per vine;
— the factors determining the start of harvest and obligations with regard to the yield;
— the specific provisions that apply to grapes put in long-term storage in cold rooms.

Finally, the provisions allowing for derogations from the rules on the refractometric index, the harvest start and the yield in the event of exceptional climatic conditions have been withdrawn from the specification as they are no longer appropriate.

Changes to legislation: *There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 503/2014. (See end of Document for details)*

5. **'Specific labelling details'**

The labelling provisions have been amended to:

— include the obligation to affix the European Union 'PDO' symbol;

— reflect the withdrawal of the requirement for packaging in the area and the amended product identification requirements. At present the products are identified by a special sticker affixed to the packaging which allows the products to be traced. Taking account of the request to withdraw the requirement for packaging in the area, the sticker is affixed to the crates of harvested grapes or when the grapes are removed from long-term cold storage. If the product is handled further ahead of its final packaging, only the number on the sticker is retained on the product label in order to guarantee the traceability of the product.

6. **National requirements**

In line with the national reform of the inspection system, the specification has been supplemented with a table setting out the main items to be checked and the evaluation methods to be used.

7. **Other**

— The requirement for packaging in the area is withdrawn, as this provision has proven no longer necessary.

— The 'Contact details of the inspection bodies', and the 'Applicant group' sections have been updated with the name and contact details of the official inspection bodies and the applicant group to reflect the change in the inspection methods.

ANNEX II

CONSOLIDATED SINGLE DOCUMENT
COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 510/2006 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs[3]
'MUSCAT DU VENTOUX'
EC No: FR-PDO-0105-0996-24.04.2012
PGI () PDO (X)

1. **Name**

'Muscat du Ventoux'

2. **Member State or third country**

France

3. **Description of the agricultural product or foodstuff**

3.1. *Type of product*

Class 1.6. Fruit, vegetables and cereals, fresh or processed

3.2. *Description of product to which the name in (1) applies*

'Muscat du Ventoux' is a black table grape produced from the 'Muscat de Hambourg' variety. It is characterised by its rather large grapes without red grains, generally highly coloured and crunchy, with a muscat flavour which is both intense and elegant. The bunches of grapes