



Organization for an International Geographical Indications Network



The case of Irish Health Warnings













FINANCIAL TIMES

Ireland to label alcoholic drinks with detailed health warnings

Move sets up clash at WTO meeting next month after complaints from drinks exporters

The Journal

Wine industry lobby group launches EU-level challenge to Irish rules on alcohol health warnings

The CEEV filed a formal complaint yesterday which requested that the Commission open an infringement procedure against Ireland.



The EU booze industry is up in arms over Irish health warnings. Why?

Irish plan would mandate health warnings saying that drinking alcohol causes liver disease, harms the unborn baby, and is directly linked to fatal cancers.



Wine wars: How 'absurd' cancer labels have pitched Ireland against Europe

Italian wine producers are incredulous at the plan and say it's an attack on the Mediterranean diet - but alcohol campaigners have praised the initiative and say it will

Anger brews in Italy over Ireland's plans

POLITICO

for alcohol health warnings

Critics say warnings are a 'direct attack' against Italy as a key exporter of wine

Alcohol labels to include health warnings, calorie content under new laws

Ireland to introduce world-first alcohol health labelling policy

Labels will alert people to calories, risk of cancer and liver disease and dangers of drinking while pregnant





Drinks giants fight Irish plan to put cancer labels on bottles

Companies lodge complaint with European Commission

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Ireland's Public Health (Alcohol) Act 2018

Overview of measures contained in the Act

Section	Timeframe (from when Commencement Order signed by Minister)
Section 11 Minimum price of alcohol products	Was to be in conjunction with NI. / into force January 2022
Section 12 Labelling of Alcohol Products and notices in licensed premises	3 years / due into force May 2026
Section 13 Content of advertisements (warnings & website to be included in alcohol advertisements)	1 year
Section 13 Content of advertisements (other than warnings & website)	3 years
Section 14 Prohibition on advertising in certain places	1 year / into force November 2019
Section 15 Restrictions on advertisements during events	3 years / into force November 2021
Section 16 Sponsorship	3 years / into force November 2021
Section 17 Children's Clothing	1 year / into force November 2019
Section 18 Advertisement in publications	18 months
Section 19 Broadcast watershed	1 year
Section 20 Advertising in cinemas	1 year / into force November 2019
Section 22 Separation and visibility of alcohol products	2 years / into force November 2020

Key:

Yet to be Completed
In legislative progress
Enacted

Alcohol Labelling requirements

- Health information:
 - calories and grams of alcohol per container [15 x 15mm]
 - link to a health website [45 x 5mm]

- Health symbol:
 - red and black pregnancy pictogram [15 x 15mm]

[60 x 30mm]

xx grams xxx kJ/ xxx kcal

DRINKING ALCOHOL CAUSES LIVER DISEASE

THERE IS A DIRECT LINK
BETWEEN ALCOHOL AND
FATAL CANCERS

Visit www.askaboutalcohol.ie

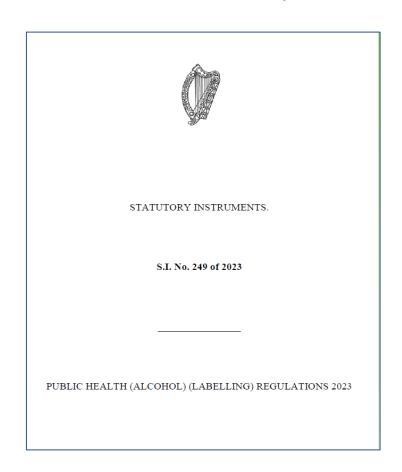


- "Drinking alcohol causes liver disease" [45 x 10mm]
- "There is a direct link between alcohol and fatal cancers" [45 x 15mm]



Labelling Legislation signed into Irish Law in May

Statutory Instrument 249 of 2023



Signed 22 May 2023

Entry into effect on 22May 2026



Key Issues

With Approach:

- This is not an evidence-based approach
- Undermines the integrity of the EU Single Market
- Disrupts trade
- Wording of warnings disproportionate and inaccurate
- A scared consumer is not an informed consumer.

With Label:

- Grams of alcohol v. % ABV
- Nutritional info is Per container v. per 100ml
- Pregnancy Pictogram colours
- Size of label disproportionate and no adequate provision for smaller containers



The Process & EU / International Opposition

EU Examination:



- Notified in June 2022 (3-month standstill, extended by further 3 months)
- TRIS Process & examined under Food Information to Consumer (FIC) regulation
- 13 EU member states opposed / 9 submitting Detailed Opinions
- European Commission failed to act

WTO Notification:



- Notified February 2023 (90-day comment period)
- At least 12 WTO members submitted comments USA, Australia, NZ, Argentina, Mexico, UK, Japan, Cuba, Canada, Chile, Columbia, Dominican Republic, Guatemala
- Raised at TBT Committee 21 June 2023



Current Status

EU level:



- Series of complaints requesting the European Commission to open infringement procedure against Ireland for breaching current EU law and EU Single Market.
- Transparency Access to Documents: Internal COM Assessment
- Member State opposition remains
- Action by Commission on health warnings for alcohol?

WTO Process:



- Raised at TBT Committee / EU COM defending / Simple matter of 'stickering'
- Commission/Ireland to respond to interested parties
- Not all countries have yet received a response
- Next TBT Committee meeting November 2023 [IMPORTANT]



....and more to come

Section 13 of PHAA (further advertising restrictions):

- Further restrictions on content of advertisements.
- Including of health warnings in advertisements.
- Implementation period: 1 year (vs 3 years for Labels)

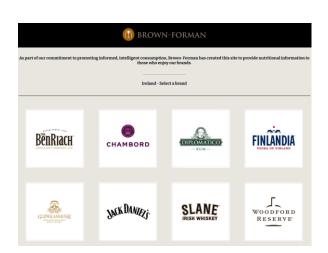
Section 19 of PHAA (Broadcast watershed):

- TV advertising: only between 21:00 03:00
- Radio advertising: only between 10:00 15:00

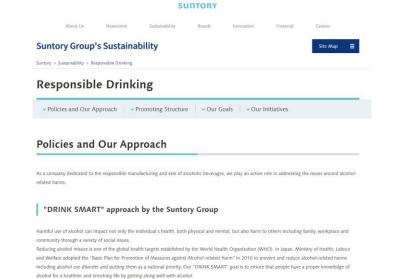


Producers take their Responsibility very seriously

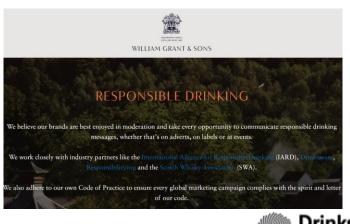














spiritsEUROPE MoU

- Voluntary initiative in advance of revision of FIC legislation
- Memorandum of Understanding on provision of nutrition information and ingredients listing
- Energy info on label / Ingredients listing online
- Latest implementation report shows 66% of Spirit Volumes has energy information on-pack
- And next DrinkINFORM is based on:
 - an integrated, multilingual approach (smartly combining onpack & digital information)
 - 3 thematic pillars (featuring information on nutrition, health awareness & sustainability)
 - flexibility (can incrementally be expanded & scaled up over time)

















Thank you



