

**TECHNICAL FILE
FOR THE GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION
'ΚΙΤΡΟ ΝΑΞΟΥ/KITRO OF NAXOS'
(AMENDED)**

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Established geographical indication: 'Κίτρο Νάξου/Kitro of Naxos'

Category of spirit drink: Liqueur

Description of the spirit drink

-Physical, chemical and/or organoleptic characteristics

'Κίτρο Νάξου/Kitro of Naxos' liqueur has the following characteristics: (a) there are three different types, each of which has a different alcoholic strength and sugar content and can be recognised by its colour:

- the green type, with an alcoholic strength of 25-30 % vol. and a minimum sugar content of 16 %;
- the colourless type (commonly known as 'white'), with an alcoholic strength of 30-33 % vol. and a minimum sugar content of 12 %;
- the yellow type, with an alcoholic strength of 33-36 % vol. and a minimum sugar content of 10.5 %;

(b) the ingredients are: water, ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin, ethyl alcohol flavoured (through maceration and distillation) with leaves, shoots and fruit of the citron tree (*Citrus medica*), sweeteners and colourings (for the coloured types of the product).

(c) the drink has a minimum alcohol strength of 25 % vol.

- Specific characteristics (compared with other spirit drinks in the same category)

The characteristic flavour of 'Κίτρο Νάξου/Kitro of Naxos' liqueur is derived from its aromatic constituents, i.e. the leaves/shoots/fruit of the citron tree (*Citrus medica*).

The minimum alcoholic strength is 25 % vol. (rather than the minimum 15 % vol. requirement generally applicable to liqueurs under point 32(b) of Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 110/2008).

The minimum sugar content, expressed as invert sugar, is 105, 120 and 160 g/l for the yellow, colourless (white) and green types respectively (rather than the minimum 100 g/l requirement generally applicable to liqueurs under the third indent of point 32(a)(i) of Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 110/2008).

Geographical area concerned

The 'Κίτρο Νάξου/Kitro of Naxos' geographical indication may only be used to denote this particular liqueur which is produced on the island of Naxos.

Specifically, the production procedure, from the flavouring of ethyl alcohol with extracts to the final preparation of the drink and its bottling, must take place in the above geographical area. The requirement that spirit drinks with a geographical indication be bottled in the area where they are produced is Greece's standard position on the issue and this has been reflected over time in all the relevant national legislation.

This requirement is necessary in order to protect and safeguard the identity and quality of spirit drinks and therefore the reputation of the geographical indication concerned.

First of all, bottling a spirit drink does not simply mean putting it into bottles or, more generally, containers. Prior to this, a number of other operations must be performed (dilution, cooling, filtering, etc.) and to that end specific precautions must be taken and certain rules observed to safeguard the drink's high quality and specific characteristics, on which the geographical indication's reputation depends. Taking these precautions and observing these rules requires specialist, detailed knowledge, and familiarity with the specific characteristics of the drink in question, and it is the distillers who produce the drink who have the greatest knowledge and experience.

Bulk transport may, to a greater or lesser degree, impair the quality of alcoholic drinks given their specific nature, i.e. their liquid state, high ethyl alcohol content, the volatility of that alcohol and the aromatic substances they contain.

In particular, it is evident that during bulk transport the aromatic substances that are crucial in determining the specific character of a spirit drink may be adversely affected by factors such as changes in temperature, the effects of atmospheric oxygen and other unforeseen factors, significantly altering the drink's aromatic profile and impairing its quality.

Moreover, the traditional nature of spirit drinks, especially those with a geographical indication, is an integral part of their identity, and this has been consistently reflected in EU legislation. In this context, the fact that these drinks are bottled in the geographical area where they are produced is taken for granted not only by consumers but also by distilleries, which, upholding tradition, bottle the drinks themselves, fully aware that this is the only way to safeguard the distinctive character of the final product.

Method used to obtain the spirit drink

'Κίτρο Νάξου/Kitro of Naxos' liqueur is produced in line with the general conditions laid down for the category 'Liqueur' in Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 110/2008, combined with certain specific procedures which help determine the distinctive character and quality of the product.

The leaves, shoots and fruit of the citron tree (*Citrus medica*) used in the production of 'Κίτρο Νάξου/Kitro of Naxos' liqueur are gathered during the most suitable month, when they have developed their maximum aroma.

The leaves are sorted immediately after they have been gathered (so as to minimise the loss of aromatic compounds), and any dry or diseased leaves are discarded. The healthy leaves, together with the stalks and fruit peel, are immersed in a mixture of ethyl alcohol (of agricultural origin) and water, the alcoholic strength of which must be at least 40 % vol., for at least 12 hours in a traditional copper still. This is followed by distillation, from which the middle fraction, or 'body', with an alcoholic strength of 75-80 % vol. is obtained; the first and the last fraction are discarded.

The fruit is macerated in a mixture of ethyl alcohol (of agricultural origin) and water, the alcoholic strength of which must be at least 40 % vol., for 48 hours in a tank. The extracted product is then transferred to the still, where it is distilled as described above. If a more pronounced taste and aroma is required, a second (and third) distillation may follow, using new leaves.

The following is added to the distillate thus obtained:

- alcohol of agricultural origin alcohol, until the alcohol flavoured by maceration and distillation accounts for least 20 % of the alcoholic strength of the drink. Where the total alcohol content is obtained by distillation, the product is labelled 'fully distilled';
- a solution of sweeteners from among those permitted under point 3 of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 110/2008, to obtain the sugar content laid down for the product type in question;
- water, to obtain the desired alcoholic strength;
- colourings, in accordance with point 10 of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 110/2008, to give the drink the desired yellow or green hue; no other colour may be added.

Link with the geographical environment or origin

Citron is the common name for the *Citrus medica* species, which belongs to the citrus fruit group.

In ancient Greece the fruit was known as the 'Median citron'; it was a symbol of fertility and abundance and was used for medicinal purposes. Today, the fruit is used in industry for the production of citrus oil and citric acid, while their highly aromatic leaves are used in the production of perfume.

Citron cultivation is known to have prospered on Naxos as far back as the 18th century, before it saw a gradual decline after the Second World War. Trade in citron fruit, which was exported in large quantities, was a staple of the island's rural economy.

Citron leaves were first used in alcoholic drink production to flavour a spirit called tsipouro, commonly known as 'raki', made from grape marc distillate. This was mainly small-scale production by wine-growers, as wine-growing had flourished on Naxos since ancient times. The drink was called 'kitrórako', and it was widely consumed on the island from the beginning of the 19th century onwards, according to written records.

Over time, citron leaf extraction began to take place by way of distillation in a 'spirit bath' of ethyl alcohol, which led to the production of liqueurs known until today by the name 'Κίτρο Νάξου/Kitro of Naxos'. The drink has been produced as a brand since 1896, when the first distillery on Naxos was granted an operating licence. Its reputation spread rapidly beyond the island, and exports began. Since the beginning of the 20th century it has won a number of national and international awards and prizes at trade fairs in Athens, Marseilles, Bordeaux, Liège for example.

European Union provisions or national/regional provisions:

EU provisions

'Κίτρο Νάξου/Kitro of Naxos' is registered as a Greek geographical indication under the spirit drink category 'Liqueur' in Annex III to Regulation (EU) No 110/2008.

Provisions of the Greek legislation

A. Background

'Kitron' liqueur was first recognised as a liqueur linked to a Greek place name, and made using citron fruit, under Article 8(7)(a) of Decision No 14500/2856 of 17 July 1976 of the Minister for Finance on the conditions for the production and marketing of alcoholic beverages in Greece and the importation and marketing of foreign alcoholic beverages (Government Gazette No 981, Series II, of 29 July 1976).

The recognition remained valid after that Decision was repealed and replaced by Decision No 22801/4512 of 6 November 1986 of the Minister for Finance on the production and marketing of alcoholic beverages (Government Gazette No 838, Series II, of 4 December 1986). Thus, 'Κίτρο Νάξου/Kitro of Naxos' is recognised as a Greek designation of origin for this citron fruit liqueur in accordance with the relevant provisions (Article 8(5)(b)) of Decision No 22801/4512 of 6 November 1986 of the Minister for Finance.

The recognition was again updated through Decision No 3010878/1396 of 2003 by the Minister for Economic Affairs and Finance (Government Gazette No 832, Series II, of 25 June 2003), which replaced the abovementioned Decision No 22801/4512 of 6 November 1986. Thus, under Article 7(5)(b) of that Decision, 'Κίτρο Νάξου/Kitro of Naxos', 'Κουμ Κουάτ Κέρκυρας/Koum Kouat of Corfu' and 'Μαστίχα Χίου/Mastiha of Chios' are recognised as and constitute geographical indications within the meaning of Article 5(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 1576/89 for 'liqueur' spirit drinks produced and bottled in the region that the geographical indications refer to.

B. Applicable national legislation

Under the Greek legislation currently in force the terms and conditions for producing and marketing alcoholic drinks are defined on a case-by-case basis by decision of the Minister for Finance, in order, inter alia, to ensure that they qualify for use of one of the recognised Greek geographical indications listed in Annex III to Regulation (EU) No 110/2008.

Accordingly, the conditions for using the geographical indication 'Κίτρο Νάξου/Kitro of Naxos' in combination with the sales denomination 'liqueur' are set out in Decision No 30/003/000/459 of 8 December 2014 of the Deputy Minister for Finance (Government Gazette No 3411, Series II, of 19 December 2014), which is herewith enclosed as an Annex.

The applicant

Member State: Greece

Competent authority:

**HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
GENERAL SECRETARIAT
for Public Revenue
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR THE
GENERAL STATE CHEMICAL LABORATORY
DIRECTORATE OF ALCOHOL & FOODSTUFFS**

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ANNEX

Decision No 30/003/000/459

Terms for using the 'Κίτρο Νάξου/Kitro of Naxos' geographical indication in combination with the sales denomination 'liqueur'.

D E C I S I O N

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE

Having regard to:

1. The provisions under Chapter III 'Geographical indications' of Regulation (EC) No 110/2008 on the definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of geographical indications of spirit drinks and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 1576/89;

2. Point 32 of Annex III to that Regulation, which lists, with respect to Greece, the 'Κίτρο Νάξου/Kitro of Naxos' geographical indication as a spirit drink in the category 'liqueur';
3. The provisions of Article 5(4)(f) of Law 2969/2001;
4. The provisions (Article 5, Part A, paragraphs 1, 2, 3(a) and 4) regarding geographical and traditional designations and names of Decision No 30/077/2131/23-8-2011 of the Deputy Minister for Finance regarding production and distribution of alcoholic beverages (Government Gazette, Series II, No 1946 of 31 August 2011);
5. Decision ΥΠΟΙΚ No 0010555 ΕΞ of 13 November 2014 of the Prime Minister and the Minister for Finance delegating powers to the Deputy Minister for Finance, Georgios Mavraganis (Government Gazette, Series II, No 3059 of 13 November 2014);
6. The provisions of subparagraph (aa)(iii) of Article 92(3)(a) of Presidential Decree No 111/2014 on the organisation of the Ministry of Finance (Government Gazette, Series I, No 178 of 29 August 2014);
7. The application of the regional distillers concerned and the information recorded in the file submitted.
8. The recommendation of 10 November 2014 of the Directorate for Alcohol and Food of the General State Chemical Laboratory; and
9. The fact that this Decision entails no expenditure under the national budget,

Has decided as follows

Article 1

1. This decision lays down the production terms, quality standards and monitoring procedures that apply to the sales denomination 'liqueur' combined with the geographical indication 'Κίτρο Νάξου/Kitro of Naxos', registered for Greece in the liqueurs category under Regulation (EC) No 110/2008.
2. The geographical indication 'Κίτρο Νάξου/Kitro of Naxos' must appear in uniform characters of the same font, size and colour. It must not be interrupted by any textual or pictorial element which does not form part of it and must not appear in a larger font size than that of the sales denomination.

Article 2

1. In order for the geographical indication to be used, the entire production process, from the stage of flavouring distilled ethyl alcohol with extracts (in accordance with point (a) of the previous paragraph) to the final preparation of the beverage and its bottling, must be carried out in the production facilities of undertakings located on the island of Naxos.
2. The liqueur with the geographical indication 'Κίτρο Νάξου/Kitro of Naxos' must meet the following special conditions:
 - (a) it must be produced by macerating fruit and/or leaves and/or shoots from the citron tree (*Citrus medica*) in a mixture of neutral ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin and water, the alcoholic strength of which must be at least 40 % vol., followed by distillation of the extract;
 - (b) it must be transparent and colourless; alternatively, it may be of a yellow or green colour. In this case, the colours permitted under point 10 of Annex I to

Regulation (EC) No 110/2008 may be added as required to obtain these specific colours; no other colour may be used.

(c) The alcohol flavoured as set out in point (a) above must account for at least 20 % of the alcoholic strength of the drink.

(d) The minimum alcohol content of the drink is 25 % vol.

(e) Other natural aromatic substances may be added under the legislation in force and in accordance with point 9 of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 110/2008, provided that the citron flavour remains predominant.

(f) Sweeteners are added in accordance with point 3 of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 110/2008 in order to reach a minimum sugar content of 100 grams per litre, expressed as invert sugar.

(g) No other ingredients may be used.

3. It is not permitted to use terms such as 'by distillation', 'double distillation', 'distilled', 'redistillation', etc. As an exemption from the above provisions, where the alcoholic strength of the drink marketed under the geographical indication 'Κίτρο Νάξου/Kitro of Naxos' is fully derived from distillation as described in the preceding paragraph, words such as 'fully distilled' or '100 % distilled' may be used, provided they appear separately from the sales denomination 'liqueur' and the geographical indication 'Κίτρο Νάξου/Kitro of Naxos', and are written in smaller letters.
4. A beverage may not be released for consumption with the 'Κίτρο Νάξου/Kitro of Naxos' geographical indication unless the terms of this decision are met.
5. The use of the word 'Naxos', words derived from it or compound words containing it are not allowed in trade names of other spirit drinks.

Article 3

1. Distillers who intend to produce and market liqueur bearing the 'Κίτρο Νάξου/Kitro of Naxos' geographical indication must submit to the local Chemical Laboratory Service, in addition to the supporting documents generally required to prove that spirit drinks comply with the relevant legislation (pursuant to Article 5(3) of Decision No 2131/077/2131/2011 of the Deputy Minister of Finance), all the relevant information proving that the product complies with the terms of this Decision. The latter shall, after examining the information submitted, issue the parties concerned with a certificate of legislative compliance, which also covers the use of the geographical indication.
2. The local Chemical Laboratory Service shall regularly inspect the distillers who make use of this geographical indication and, without prejudice to the following paragraph, shall revoke the above certificate if a distiller fails to comply with Articles 1 and 2 of this Decision. For the purpose of checking the aromatic constituents and the use of flavoured ethyl alcohol, as laid down in the relevant provisions of Article 2 of this Decision, account shall be taken of specific entries in the relevant register of distilleries, in conjunction with the relevant Protocols, as well as the relevant data and documents used for the supply of fruit, parts, etc. of the citron tree.
3. Failure to observe the terms and conditions of this Decision shall constitute a breach of Law No 2969/2001 which shall be punishable pursuant to Article 12(h), in conjunction with Article 11(3)(k) with respect to the provisions of Article 2 of this Decision, or pursuant to Article 11(2)(l) where the conditions for applying Article 12(i) of that Law are not met.

Article 4

This Decision shall be published in the Government Gazette and shall enter into force on the date of its publication.

Athens, 8 December 2014

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE

GEORGIOS MAVRAGANIS