

Certified California Sustainable Winegrowing Cost Estimates (Administration Fees + Auditor Fees)



Certification Costs Summary

The fees for certification are comprised of an Annual Administration Fee paid to CSWA and Auditor Fees paid directly to the third-party auditor as described in the tables below. There is no application or enrollment fee, but the Annual Administration Fee is due before certification can be awarded each year.

Annual Administration Fees are paid to CSWA to cover the administrative tasks for managing the certification program, use of the SWP Online System, and other benefits such as the Certified California Sustainable Winegrowing (CCSW) sign and annual certificate. CSWA administration fees are separate from the auditor fees paid directly to the third-party auditor. Annual administration fees must be paid prior to the issuance of certificates each year. Once Audit Reports are submitted to CSWA for the Certification Review Panel, an invoice for the annual administrative fee will be emailed to the certification contact(s). Payment must be received within 30 days before the new certificate will be issued and mailed.

How to Calculate Administration Fees: Annual administration fees are paid at the organizational level for all vineyards and/or wineries seeking certification. Vineyard acreage and wine case production should be combined across all vineyards and wineries included in the certification scope to determine the appropriate fee Tier (see Table 1 and Table 2 below). An organization certifying both a vineyard(s) and winery(ies) will receive a \$100 discount on the combined fees.

Table 1: Vineyard Fees*

Tier	Total Vineyard Acreage Certified	Annual Administration Fee
Tier 1	0-50	\$200
Tier 2	51-500	\$400
Tier 3	501-1000	\$600
Tier 4	1001-2000	\$1200
Tier 5	2001+	\$2000

*An organization certifying both a vineyard(s) and winery(ies) receives a \$100 discount on the combined fees.

Table 2: Winery Fees*

Tier	Total Wine Cases Produced by Certified Winery(ies)	Annual Administration Fee
Tier 1	1-50,000	\$200
Tier 2	50,001-500,000	\$400
Tier 3	501K-5M	\$1200
Tier 4	5M+	\$2000

*An organization certifying both a vineyard(s) and winery(ies) receives a \$100 discount on the combined fees.

Auditor Selection and Fees

The Applicant chooses and contracts directly with an auditor from the list of CCSW Accredited Auditors (available on the CSWA website) once they have completed the self-assessment(s) and action plans. Table 3 provides examples of different size organizations and the estimated costs associated with auditor time. The table below is for informational purposes only and should be viewed as a guide for determining the potential costs of auditor fees (see Certification Guidebook Section 3.4.10 Auditor Selection and Fees for more information). A winery and vineyard is assumed to take the same amount of time to audit, as found during the certification pilot audits. See the next page for information about the sampling approach, which applies to multi-site operations.

Table 3: Estimated Auditor Fees

Total Vineyards and/or Wineries* <i>Example Organization</i>	Sampling Approach** (if used)		Auditor time (range in days)		Typical audit fees ***		
	Total #	Audit Sample	Year 1 (onsite audit)	Years 2 & 3 (review of self-assessment & action plans)	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
One Vineyard or Winery <i>Example: Single vineyard or winery</i>	1	1	0.5-1.5	0.50	\$500-1,000	\$500	\$500
Two Vineyards and/or Wineries <i>Example: Small winery with one vineyard</i>	2	2	1.0-2.0	0.50	\$1,000-\$2,000	\$500	\$500
Four Vineyards and/or Wineries <i>Example: Winery with 3 vineyards</i>	4	3	1.5-2.5	0.50	\$1,500-2,500	\$500	\$500
Nine Vineyards and/or Wineries <i>Example: 9 vineyards (no winery), same management, similar farming practices</i>	9	3	1.5-2.5	0.5-1.5	\$1,500-2,500	\$500-1,500	\$500-1,500
13 Vineyards and/or Wineries <i>Example: Winery plus 12 vineyards. Vineyards under same management. Similar farming practices</i>	13	5	2.5-3.5	1.0-1.5	\$2,500-3,500	\$1,000-1,500	\$1,000-1,500
24 Vineyards and/or Wineries <i>Example: 4 wineries plus 20 vineyards. 4 growing regions, each under separate management</i>	24	7	3.5-5.0	1.5-2.5	\$3,500-5,000	\$1,500-2,500	\$1,500-2,500

* When determining the total vineyard and/or winery number to use, you must include all of the vineyards and/or wineries that are seeking certification. For instance, if multiple vineyards are grouped into a single self-assessment (because they are under the same management, achieve the same scores on almost all criteria and are within the same county) the total number of vineyards included in the self-assessments must be used (e.g., if six vineyards are grouped into one self-assessment, six vineyards must be used for the total vineyard number and to determine the minimum number of onsite audits needed).

**See next page for more information on the Sampling Approach, which may be used to certify multi-site organizations.

*** Audit fees do not include auditor expenses (i.e. travel costs) or the CSWA annual administration fees, which can be found above or in Section 3.4 of the Certification Guidebook.

Sampling Approach

A sampling approach, based on ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems, may be used to certify multi-site organizations. Sampling can be applied if units operate under the same management practices. A sampling unit is the number of self-assessments required to fully represent the entire scope of certification. The sample should be representative of the total scope of certification. For wineries, this means representative in terms of facility size, age and condition and for vineyards this means representative in terms of geographic size, grape variety and program. The minimum number of units to be audited is the square root of the total population. Wineries and vineyards should be sampled separately. Note that self-assessments of vineyards can be grouped if they meet the following criteria: 1) vineyards are located within the same county, 2) vineyards are managed similarly, and 3) vineyards achieve more than 90% of similar assessment scores. However, when determining the total vineyard sample number to be used for the sampling approach, the total number of vineyards included in the self-assessments must be used (e.g., if six vineyards are grouped into one self-assessment, six vineyards must be used in the sample number to determine the minimum number of onsite audits needed).

Table 4: Sampling Recommendations

These recommendations are the minimum number of onsite audits needed. An auditor may determine that additional onsite audits are needed in any given year to confidently audit the entire scope of certification represented by the sample.

Number of Vineyards or Wineries included in Sample*	Audit Sample Year 1	Audit Sample Years 2 and 3
1-2	All	0
3	2	0
4	2	1
5-9	3	1
10-16	4	2
17-25	5	2
26-36	6	3
37-49	7	3

* When determining the total vineyard number to be used, the total number of vineyards included in the self-assessments must be used (e.g., if six vineyards are grouped into one self-assessment, six vineyards must be used in the sample number to determine the minimum number of onsite audits needed).

All management units being represented by the sample must submit an annual self-assessment and action plan(s), and meet all certification requirements (prerequisite practices, continuous improvement, Red List/Yellow List materials, Performance Metrics, etc.), regardless of whether or not they receive an onsite audit for that audit year. Additionally, the participant should be prepared to show a comparison of the self-assessment scores for each of their management units within the scope of certification. The results of this analysis should factor into organization-wide and individual unit action plans. Moreover, corrective actions identified as a result of an audit should be applied across all units in the scope of desired certification (e.g., group of vineyards, company, or other subset of an organization). Central management should coordinate this process and be prepared to demonstrate its completion.