# II.1.3 Removing stems from either grape berries or crushed grapes

**Definition:**

Separation of berries from their stems, or more generally removal of stems from the harvested grapes before the start of fermentation.

**Objective**:

To reduce the loss of colour and alcohol from red wines and to render them lower in tannin and less astringent. Reduces the herbaceous character due to non-lignified stems.

**Prescription:**

No particular prescription.

**Recommendation of the OIV**:

Admitted.