
Draft Jamaican Standard

Specification

for

Gin



BUREAU OF STANDARDS JAMAICA

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DRAFT JAMAICAN STANDARD

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DJS 297: 2026

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Jamaica-Made Mark

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This standard was circulated in the draft form for comment under the reference DJS 297: 2026.

Jamaican Standards establish requirements in relation to commodities, processes and practices, but do not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract.

The attention of those using this standard specification is called to the necessity of complying with any relevant legislation.

Amendments

No.	Date of Issue	Remarks	Entered by and date

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Foreword

This standard is intended for use by manufacturers, bottlers, distributors and importers of gin to ensure that consumers get a product of good quality.

This standard is compulsory.

Committee representation

The preparation of this standard for the Standards Council, established under the Standards Act, 1969 was carried out under the supervision of the National Food Standards Technical Committee, which at the time comprised the following members:

Acknowledgment

Acknowledgement is made to the Code of Federal Regulations, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India and the International Organization for Standardization to reproduce material from the documents referenced below.

Related Documents

This standard makes reference to the following:

- a) *India Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2025*
- b) *27 CFR 5 Standards of Identity for Distilled Spirits*
- c) *ISO 2859-1 - Sampling procedures for inspection by attributes- Part 1: Sampling plans indexed by acceptable quality level (AQL) for lot by lot inspection*

Jamaican standard specification for Gin

1. Scope

This standard prescribes the general requirements for the production and sampling of Gin.

2. Normative References

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

- a) CAC/GL 66, *Guidelines for the use of flavourings*
- b) JS 349, *Jamaican Standard Specification for Labelling of Goods - General Requirements.*
- c) JS 350 *Jamaican Standard Specification for Labelling of Goods - Specific Requirements for Prepackaged Goods*
- d) JS CRS 5, *Labelling of pre-packaged foods*

3. Definitions

For the purpose of this standard the following definition applies:

3.1

acceptance Number

number of non-conforming product that will be accepted

3.2

acceptable Quality Limit (AQL)

maximum percentage or ratio of defective items in a product batch that is considered tolerable for acceptance during sampling inspections

3.3

alcohol

transparent, colourless, flammable, volatile liquid miscible with water, ether or chloroform and obtained by the fermentation of carbohydrates with yeast.

Note to entry 1: The term "Alcohol", when used without a qualifying adjective, refers to ethyl alcohol (C^2H^5OH) and includes all concentrations of this substance in water.

Note to entry 2: The definition for the term "Alcohol" is derived from the meaning of the words Ethyl alcohol (C^2H^5OH) or Ethanol.

3.4

alcohol, methyl (methanol)

simplest of all alcohols, having the chemical formula CH^3OH . Methyl alcohol or "methanol" means a clear, colourless and flammable liquid

Note to entry: Consumption of which above the specified limits may cause blindness or death.

3.5

distillation

process of boiling off a Liquid as vapour and then cooling it again so that it is received as liquid in another vessel

3.6**gin**

distilled spirits made by original distillation from mash, or by redistillation of distilled spirits, or by mixing neutral spirits, with or over juniper berries (*Juniperus communis*) and, optionally, with or over other aromatics, or with or over extracts derived from infusions, percolations, or maceration of such materials, and includes mixtures of gin and neutral spirits

Note to entry 1: Gin must derive its main characteristic flavour from juniper berries and be bottled at not less than 40 percent alcohol by volume (80° proof).

Note to entry 2: Gin may be aged in oak containers.

3.7**inspection level**

designates the relative amount of inspection and determines the sample size

3.8**lot**

definite amount of some product, material or service, collected together

Note to entry: An inspection lot may consist of several batches or parts of batches.

3.9**neutral spirit**

“Neutral spirits” or “alcohol” means a product purified by distillation and rectification, at or above 95 percent of alcohol by volume (190° proof), and if bottled, bottled at not less than 40 percent alcohol by volume (80° proof), after alcoholic fermentation of cereal grains, fruits, vegetables, cane sugar, cane sugar syrup, raw cane sugar, molasses or any other source of carbohydrates of agricultural origin, with the removal of fusel oil and furfural.

Note to entry: “Neutral spirits” are considered “alcohol” and the term may be used interchangeably.

3.10**organoleptic characteristics**

No detectable taste and odour other than that of the raw materials used

3.11**pure chemicals**

Chemicals that do not contain impurities, which affect the results of analysis

3.12**principal display panel**

part of the Label that is most likely to be displayed or visible to the purchaser or consumer at the point of sale

3.13**rejection Number**

number of non-conforming product that will not be accepted

3.14**responsible authority**

responsible authority may be:

- a) the quality department within a supplier's organization (first party);
- b) the purchaser or procurement organization (second party);
- c) an independent verification or certification authority (third party);

3.15

spirit drink

Alcoholic liquid, intended for human consumption having particular organoleptic characteristics, a minimum alcoholic strength of 15% volume and produced either by distillation or by the mixture of spirit drinks with:

- a) other spirit drinks;
- b) ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin;
- c) one or more alcoholic drinks.

4. General Requirements

4.1 Classification of Gin

4.1.1 Distilled gin

4.1.1.1 Distilled gin shall be produced solely by redistilling organoleptically suitable ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin, of appropriate quality, at a distillation strength of at least 96% alcohol by volume, in the presence of juniper berries and other natural botanicals.

4.1.1.2 The term 'distilled gin' may also be used for a mixture of:

- (a) the product obtained in accordance with 4.1.1 and
- (b) ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin, provided that the mixture conforms to the composition, purity and alcoholic strength specified in 4.1.1.

4.1.2 "Distilled gin"

Gin made exclusively by original distillation or by redistillation may be further designated as "distilled", "Dry", "London", "Old Tom" or some combination of these four.

4.1.2.1 Gin obtained by adding essences or flavouring to ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin shall not qualify for the description 'distilled gin'.

4.1.3 Flavoured gin

4.1.3.1 Flavoured gin shall be a potable alcoholic beverage made from neutral spirits and flavoured with juniper berries and other natural flavouring materials, with or without the addition of sugar and aromatics.

4.1.3.2 Flavoured gin shall be bottled at not less than 37.5% alcohol by volume.

4.1.3.3 The name of the predominant flavour shall form part of the designation.

4.2 Residual sugar

Gin shall have a residual sugar content of not more than 1.0 g/L. Flavoured gin shall have a residual sugar content of not more than 100.0 g/L.

4.3 Ethyl alcohol content

4.3.1 The ethyl alcohol content in bottled gin shall be not less than 37.5% alcohol by volume at 20°C, when determined in accordance with the prescribed method.

4.3.2 The ethyl alcohol content in bottled flavoured gin shall be not less than 35.0% alcohol by

volume at 20°C, when determined in accordance with the prescribed method.

4.3.3 The tolerance limit for ethyl alcohol content shall be $\pm 0.3\%$ alcohol by volume of the declared strength. However, the ethyl alcohol content and its tolerance may vary according to the rules and regulations prescribed by the Government Excise Laws.

4.3.4 The ethyl alcohol used in the preparation of gin shall be alcohol of agricultural origin.

4.4 Ingredients

The ingredients for gin shall include:

- Neutral spirit
- Juniper berries
- Demineralized water or distilled water
- Flavouring agents, if used must conform with CAC/GL 66

4.4.1 Freedom from harmful ingredients

4.4.1.1 Gin shall be free from any ingredients injurious to health.

4.5 Appearance, aroma and taste.

4.5.1 Gin shall be clear and shall not develop any turbidity on being diluted with water.

4.5.2 Gin shall have a characteristic aroma and taste associated with the type of gin.

4.6 Hygiene Conditions

4.6.1 Gin shall be manufactured under good hygienic conditions.

4.6.2 The handling equipment such as distillation vessels, storage vessels, filters, bottling machinery and packing equipment shall be clean.

4.7 Gin shall also comply with the specifications given in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1 Specifications for Gin

Characteristic	Specification (Max)
Residue on evaporation % (W/V)	2.5g
Volatile acids as acetic acid (expressed in terms of mg/L of absolute alcohol)	50
Esters as ethyl acetate (expressed in terms of mg/L of absolute alcohol)	1000
Higher alcohols as amyl alcohol (expressed in terms of 100 L of absolute alcohol)	50
Copper (as Cu) ppm	10.0 g
Aldehydes as acetaldehyde (expressed in terms of mg/L of absolute alcohol)	250.0
Methyl alcohol / Methanol, mg/L, max.	50

Table 2 - Heavy Metals

Heavy Metals	Limit mg/l, Max
Arsenic	0.25
Cadmium	0.01
Copper	5.0
Lead	0.2
Mercury	0.25

5. Packaging

5.1 Gin shall be filled in glass liquor bottles or in any other suitable food grade containers, to ensure products safety and quality.

5.2 The bottles or containers shall be of sizes conforming to standard practices and shall be properly sealed in accordance with Government Excise Laws.

5.3 The container shall not impair the organoleptic or chemical characteristics of the product and/or make it harmful to health.

5.4 Packing of containers (example: bottles, boxes etc). The containers shall be securely packed in cases or cartons to minimize damage.

5.5 The inner surfaces of bottles used in packaging shall be smooth without cracks, pinholes, sharp edges or broken bubbles. They shall be free from cords, blisters and stones and as far as possible from loading marks.

6 Labelling

6.1 General Requirements

6.1.1 The labelling shall be in accordance with JS CRS 5.

6.1.2 The label shall not contain any statement, design or device representing that the use of gin has curative or therapeutic effects if such statement is untrue in any particular or tends to create a misleading impression.

6.1.3 Labels shall be so designed that the label statements remain conspicuous and legible under normal conditions of purchase and use. Such statements should be on a contrasting background. No statement shall be in letters of less than 1.60 mm in height.

6.1.4 Labels may contain information other than the mandatory label information required by 6.2, provided such information does not conflict with nor in any manner qualify those statements required by regulations promulgated under the Bureau's Laws and Regulations.

Table 3 - Minimum Diameter of warning logos or pictogram

Packaging volume	Minimum requirement (mm)
Over 1 litre	10
500ml -1 litre	8
Under 500ml	5

Not required under 50 ml	-
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6.2 Detailed requirements

6.2.1 The following particulars shall be marked legibly and indelibly on the principal display panel of the label:

- (a) brand name,
- (b) product name as 'Gin' or '(name of flavour) Flavoured gin' 'spiced gin'
 - i. If gin is flavoured, the names of flavourings should be included in the legal name and may be substituted by a collective name for such flavourings. If the flavouring or flavourings do not impart an identifiable flavour, , the names of the flavouring(s) may be omitted provided that the name or other depiction shall not be used on the label
 - ii. If gin is spiced, the name or names of such spice or spices and the word 'flavoured' or 'infused' may be replaced by the word 'spiced'
 - iii. the word "gin" may be used on its own in descriptive text if such descriptive text clearly indicates that the gin concerned has been blended, mixed, infused or otherwise combined with the flavouring or flavourings concerned.
- (c) ethyl alcohol content in% by volume,
- (d) net content (see **NOTE**).

6.2.2 The requirements for the declaration of net contents shall be as specified in accordance with JS 349 and JS 350. In addition, the net contents shall be stated in metric units in accordance with the excise legislation of the country of origin. It should be stated in Arabic numerals or in words.

NOTE Net volume should be the volume indicated in the container subject to a tolerance of $\pm 1\%$ on individual bottle and $\pm 0.5\%$ on total volume of 12 bottles. The volume should be measured at a final temperature of 27°C

6.2.3 The following additional statements shall appear on any part of the label except that part of the label, if any, applied to the bottom of the container:

- (a) name and address of the manufacturer/ bottler etc.
- (b) country of origin, and
- (c) name and address of the importer

6.2.3.1 The name and address of the manufacturer shall be the name and address of the registered place of business of the distiller or bottler of the product. It shall be preceded by the word 'Manufactured by/for.....', 'Distilled by', 'Bottled by/for', as applicable.

6.2.3.2 The country of origin shall be prominently and clearly stated as 'Product of....., Produced by....., Manufactured by....., Made in' etc, with the blank to be filled in accordingly.

6.2.3.3 Labels of imported gins shall bear the words 'imported by' followed by the name of the importer or sole distributor or person responsible for the importation, together with the street address of the principal place of business in Jamaica of such person.

6.2.3.4 No health claim shall be made on gin labels.

6.3 Statutory warnings

6.3.1 The label shall include written warnings about potential health risks and safety risks, including drinking and driving, risks of excessive consumption (e.g., liver disease, addiction) and interaction with medications.

Additionally, graphic warnings may accompany the text.



6.3.2 The application of the mandatory pregnancy warnings shall be stated on beverages containing 0.5% ABV or more. The label shall state the effects on pregnancy (e.g., foetal alcohol syndrome).



6.3.3 The label shall include warnings for underage consumers.



6.4 Compliance

6.4.1 The label of gin sold in Jamaica shall comply with the requirements of JS CRS 5. Specifically, it must provide the following:

- a) A declaration of alcohol content: Alcohol content shall be expressed as per cent. abv or as proof.
- b) Allergen declaration: An indication of the expression 'contains sulphites' or 'contains sulphites' on the label if the sulphur dioxide occurs in a liquor product in a concentration of more than 10 mg per litre, measured as total sulphur dioxide. Allergen declaration is not required when cereals are used for making alcoholic distillates including ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin.

7. Sampling

7.1 General requirements

The inspection level required for any particular application shall be specified by the responsible authority. This allows the authority to require greater discrimination for some purposes and less for others.

7.1.1 In drawing, preparing and handling samples, the following precautions and directions shall be observed as far as possible:

- a) sampling shall be done by an authorized person from the statutory organization and if desired, may be carried out in the presence of the purchaser (or his representative) and the vendor (or his representative).
- b) to obtain a representative sample the contents of each container selected for sampling shall be mixed as thoroughly as possible by suitable means.
- c) precautions shall be taken to protect the samples from extraneous contamination.
- d) samples shall be stored in a cool, dark and dry place.

7.2 Scale of sampling

7.2.1 All cases with containers of the same size containing material of the same type, grade, class and composition, manufactured under the same conditions and at the same time shall constitute a lot or batch.

7.2.2 All the containers drawn from a particular lot shall be considered a sample for testing purposes.

7.2.3 Samples shall be tested from each lot for ascertaining conformity of the material to the requirements of the standard.

7.2.4 The number of containers to be selected from each lot shall be in accordance with the requirements detailed in Table 3.

7.2.5 The containers shall be selected at random. In order to ensure randomness of selection, random number tables should be used. If random number tables are not available the following procedure should be used:

starting from any case count 1, 2,'r' in a systematic manner. Every r^{th} case thus counted shall be withdrawn until the desired number is obtained; 'r' being the integral part of N/n , where 'N' is the number of cases in the lot and 'n' is the number of cases to be selected. One container should be drawn from each case.

7.2.6 All the cases selected should be opened and the containers examined visually for the conditions of packing, the external appearance and the fill.

7.2.7 Tests shall be made on the composite sample prepared by thoroughly mixing equal quantities from the individual sample containers. This result shall satisfy the requirements of the standard.

7.2.8 Sampling shall be done in accordance with the requirements in Table #5. This sampling plan is described in the ISO 2859-1: Sampling procedures for inspection by attributes. Special inspection level S-3 was chosen on the basis that all the items in a lot should have received uniform treatment. The effectiveness of the sampling plan is dependent on the execution of proper quality control procedures.

Table 4 - Sampling plan for physical and chemical requirements

Acceptable Quality Limit (AQL) = 6.5%			
Lot Size	Sample Size	Acceptance number	Rejection number
2 - 50	2	0	1
51 - 500	8	1	2
501 - 3200	13	2	3

3201 - 35000	20	3	4
35001 - 500000	32	5	6
500001 and over	50	7	8

DRAFT JAMAICAN STANDARD

Standards Council

The Standards Council is the controlling body of the Bureau of Standards Jamaica and is responsible for the policy and general administration of the Bureau.

The Council is appointed by the Minister in the manner provided for in the Standards Act, 1969. Using its powers in the Standards Act, the Council appoints committees for specified purposes.

The Standards Act, 1969 sets out the duties of the Council and the steps to be followed for the formulation of a standard.

Preparation of standards documents

The following is an outline of the procedure which must be followed in the preparation of documents:

1. The preparation of standards documents is undertaken upon the Standard Council's authorisation. This may arise out of representation from national organisations or existing Bureau of Standards' Committees of Bureau staff. If the project is approved it is referred to the appropriate sectional committee or if none exists a new committee is formed, or the project is allotted to the Bureau's staff.
2. If necessary, when the final draft of a standard is ready, the Council authorises an approach to the Minister in order to obtain the formal concurrence of any other Minister who may be responsible for any area which the standard may affect.
3. The draft document is made available to the general public for comments. All interested parties, by means of a notice in the Press, are invited to comment. In addition, copies are forwarded to those known, interested in the subject.
4. The Committee considers all the comments received and recommends a final document to the Standards Council
5. The Standards Council recommends the document to the Minister for publication.
6. The Minister approves the recommendation of the Standards Council.
7. The declaration of the standard is gazetted and copies placed on sale.
8. On the recommendation of the Standards Council the Minister may declare a standard compulsory.
9. Amendments to and revisions of standards normally require the same procedure as is applied to the preparation of the original standard.

Overseas standards documents

The Bureau of Standards Jamaica maintains a reference library which includes the standards of many overseas standards organisations. These standards can be inspected upon request.

The Bureau can supply on demand copies of standards produced by some national standards bodies and is the agency for the sale of standards produced by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) members.

Application to use the reference library and to purchase Jamaican and other standards documents should be addressed to:

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