
Draft Jamaican Standard
Specification
for
Alcoholic Mixed/Aromatized/Ready to Drink Beverages



BUREAU OF STANDARDS JAMAICA

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DRAFT JAMAICAN STANDARD

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DJS 377: 2026

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Draft Jamaican Standard

Specification

for

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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, and importers of Alcoholic Mixed Beverages, to ensure that local customers get a product of good quality and also to help in promoting the export of this product.

This standard is compulsory.

Committee representation

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

Acknowledgement

Acknowledgement is made the East African Community Partner States and the International Organization for Standardization to reproduce material from the documents referenced below.

Related Documents

This standard makes reference to the following:

- a) ISO 2859-1, *Sampling procedures for inspection by attributes- Part 1: Sampling plans indexed by acceptable quality level (AQL) for lot by lot inspection*
- b) DEAS 1276 *Alcoholic Mixed Beverages*

Jamaican standard specification for Alcoholic Mixed/Aromatized/Ready to Drink Beverages

1. Scope

This standard specifies the requirements for packaging, labelling, and sampling of alcoholic mixed beverages for human consumption. This standard does not apply to the following categories of products for which other standards apply; spirits, wines, liqueurs, beers, malt beverages, cider and perry, mead, and distilled spirituous beverages.

Forms of expression such as the following are to be used in this clause:

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) CAC/MRL 2, *Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) and Risk Management Recommendations (RMRs) for residues of veterinary drugs in foods*
- c) CXC 1, *General principles of food Hygiene*
- d) JS CRS 5, *Labelling of pre-packaged foods*
- e) JS CODEX STAN 192, *Jamaican General standard for food additives*
- f) JS CRS 53, *Jamaican Standard for Carbonated beverages*
- g) JS Codex STAN 193, *Jamaican Standard Specification for Contaminants and toxins in food and feed — Requirements for packaging materials*
- h) JS 87, *Jamaican Standard Specification for Fluoridated Iodized Salt - Food Grade Salt*
- i) World Health Organisation, *Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality*

3. Definitions

For the purpose of this standard the following definition applies:

3.1

acceptable Quality Limit (AQL)

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

3.2

acceptance Number

number of non-conforming product that will be accepted.

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 (C²H⁵OH) 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 (C²H⁵OH) or Ethanol.

3.4 alcoholic fermentation

process by which fermentable sugars are converted into alcohol by the action of enzymes using microorganisms.

NOTE Consumption of which above the specified limits may cause blindness or death.

3.5 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.

3.6 aromatized/Mixed alcoholic beverages:

alcoholic drinks that are either distilled or those combining alcohol with added flavours, botanicals, herbs, spices, fruits, water, sweeteners, juices, natural ingredients, or other permitted additives. Examples include beer, wine, cider and perry, spirituous cooler-type beverages and low-alcoholic beverages.

3.7 distilled spirituous beverages

alcoholic beverages derived from grain (e.g. corn, barley, rye, wheat), tubers (e.g. potato), fruit (e.g. grapes, berries) or sugar cane through distillation. May include and not limited to brandy (distilled wine), cordials, liqueurs, gin, tequila, whiskey, and vodka.

3.8 ethyl carbamate

also known as carbonic acid ethyl ester, urethane, or ethyl urethane.

3.9 fermentation alcohol

alcohol produced by the fermentation of raw materials containing monosaccharides, disaccharides, and polysaccharides after hydrolysis.

3.10 inspection level

inspection level designates the relative amount of inspection and determines the sample size.

3.11 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.

3.12 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);
- d) any of a), b) or c), differing according to function as described in a written agreement between two of the parties, for example a document between supplier and purchaser.

3.13 spirit

as ordinarily used, this term refers to any distilled liquor (such as brandy, whiskey, rum, or gin). It is also employed as a synonym for unflavoured alcohol of any strength.

3.14 strength

concentration of alcohol by volume which is present.

4. Requirements

4.1 Ingredients

4.1.1 Essential ingredients

The ingredients used to produce alcoholic mixed beverages shall include the following: water, extract base that can include sugar, malt/cereal extract, and fruit juice extract complying with applicable standards; and neutral spirit or potable spirit or other alcoholic beverage bases complying with applicable standards.

The flavouring extract materials complying with CAC/GL 66.

4.1.2 Optional ingredients

These may include:

- a. Edible salt complying with JS 87
- b. carbon dioxide in accordance with JS CRS 53, Jamaican Standard for Carbonated beverages; and
- c. Phosphates if used in the alcohol-base material shall comply with levels in JS Codex STAN 192.

4.2 General requirements

4.2.1 Alcoholic mixed beverages shall be free from harmful ingredients that are injurious to health

4.3 Specific requirements

4.3.1 Alcoholic mixed beverages shall comply with the compositional requirements specified in Table 1.

Table 1 — Quality requirements for alcoholic mixed beverages

Characteristic	Requirement
pH	2.5 – 5.0
Total acidity, as citric, tartaric), g/L, max	8.0
Ethyl alcohol content, % v/v, Max	Alcoholic 15 Non-alcoholic 0.5
Carbon dioxide, % v/v, max.	2
Sugar, g/L, max.	200
Methyl alcohol, g/L, max.	0.03

5. Potable Water

5.1 Potable water shall conform to the requirements given in Table 2 and shall be clear and pleasant to the taste. Water used in the preparation of mixed alcohol beverages shall also comply with the requirements stated in the latest edition of Guidelines for Drinking-water

Quality published by the World Health Organization.

Table 2 — Requirements for potable water

Characteristic	Maximum allowable /residual limit
Turbidity	5 NTU
Colour	Colourless
Odour	None
Free chlorine	0.2 mg/kg (ppm)
Total alkalinity as calcium carbonate	85 mg/kg (ppm)
Sulphate as SO ₄	250 mg/kg (ppm)
Chloride as Cl	250 mg/kg (ppm)
Iron and manganese	0.3 mg/kg (ppm)
Copper	2.0 mg/kg (ppm)

6 Food additives

6.1 Food additives may be used in alcoholic mixed beverages in accordance with CXS 192.

7 Contaminants

7.1 Heavy metals

7.2 Alcoholic mixed beverages shall comply with the relevant provisions of CXS 193.

7.3 Alcoholic mixed beverages shall comply with the heavy metal limits given in Table 3

Table 3 — Heavy metal contaminants limits for alcoholic mixed beverages

Heavy metal	Maximum level (mg/kg. maximum)
Arsenic (As), mg/kg	0.1
Lead (Pb), mg/kg	0.1
Tin (Sn), mg/kg (for the canned beverages)	150
Copper	1.50
Iron	2.00
Mercury	0.05
Cadmium	0.003

7.4 Pesticide residues

7.4.1 Alcoholic mixed beverages shall conform to the maximum residue limits specified in CAC/MRL 2.

8 Hygiene

8.1 Alcoholic mixed beverages shall be produced, processed, handled and stored in accordance with CXC 1.

8.2 Alcoholic mixed beverages shall comply with the microbiological limits given in Table 3 when tested in accordance with the test methods specified therein.

Table 4 — Microbiological limits for alcoholic mixed beverages

Microbiological parameter	Limits (CFU/ml) at time of Bottling	Limits (CFU/ml) at 1 week postproduction
Total plate count	< 100CFU /100 ml	30 CFU
Yeast/ mould count	< 25 CFU /100 ml	10 CFU
Coliform count	< 1 CFU /100 ml	-
NOTE CFU- Colony Forming Unit		

9. Packaging

9.1 Alcoholic Mixed Beverages may be filled in glass liquor bottles or in any other suitable food grade containers, to ensure products safety and quality.

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

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

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

9.5 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.

10. Labelling

10.1 In addition to the requirements in JS CRS 5, each package shall be legibly and indelibly labelled with the following:

- a. name of the product
- b. name, physical location and address of manufacturer
- c. ethyl alcohol content, expressed as percent by volume
- d. list of ingredients in descending order of proportion by mass
- e. net contents
- f. date of manufacture
- g. best before date
- h. batch identification number/code
- i. country of origin
- j. storage condition; and 'Declaration of statutory warnings, where applicable

10.2 No health claim shall be made on alcoholic mixed beverage labels.

10.3 The label shall include written warnings about potential health 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.



10.4 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).



10.5 The label shall include warnings for underage consumers.



Table 4 - 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	-

11. Sampling

Sampling and testing shall be conducted in accordance with ISO 2859-1.

11.1 Sampling plan

combination of sample size(s) to be used and associated lot acceptability criteria

NOTE 1 A single sampling plan is a combination of sample size and acceptance and rejection numbers.

NOTE 2 A sampling plan does not contain the rules on how to draw the sample.

11.1.1 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.

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

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

The number of containers to be selected from each lot shall be in accordance with the requirements given in Table #5.

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

procedure shall be used:

Starting from any case count 1,2,3,4 'r' in a systematic manner. Every 'rth' case thus counted shall be withdrawn until the desired number is obtained; 'r' being an integral part of N/n. Where 'N' is the total number of cases in the lot, and 'n' is the number of cases to be selected, one container shall be drawn from each case.

11.1.4 All the cases selected shall be opened and the containers inspected for the conditions of packing, the external appearances, and the fill.

11.1.5 All the cases selected shall be opened and the containers inspected for the conditions of packing, the external appearances and fill.

11.1.6 Sampling shall be done in accordance with the requirements in Table #5.

11.1.7 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 shall receive uniform treatment. The effectiveness of the sampling plan is dependent on the execution of proper quality control procedures.

Note to entry: By selecting an inspection level like S-3, you are defining the size of the sample, which is then used with the chosen AQL to determine the acceptance number for the lot.

Table 5 - Sample plan for chemical and physical 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

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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