
Draft Jamaican Standard

Specification

for

Vodka



BUREAU OF STANDARDS JAMAICA

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

10 MAY 2026 – 09 JULY 2026

DRAFT JAMAICAN STANDARD

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DJS 378: 2026

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Certification of Agricultural Produce (CAP) Mark



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Month 202X

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ISBN XXX-XXX-XXX-X

Declared by the Bureau of Standards to be a standard specification pursuant to section 7 of the Standards Act 1968.

First published Month 202X

This standard was circulated in the draft form for comment under the reference DJS 378: 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 and importers of Vodka, 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 carried out under the supervision of the National Food Standards Technical Committee, which at the time comprised the following members:

Acknowledgement

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) *27 CFR 5 Standards of Identity for Distilled Spirits*
- b) *ISO 2859-1, Sampling procedures for inspection by attributes — Part 1*
- c) *Food Safety and Standards Authority of India - Food Safety and Standards (Alcoholic Beverages) Regulations, 2018*

Draft Jamaican standard specification for Vodka

1. Scope

This Standard specifies characteristics, labelling, packaging, requirements and sampling for Vodka. This standard also applies to flavoured vodka.

2. Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all 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) *JS CODEX STAN 192, General standard for food additives*
- b) *CAC/GL 66, Guidelines for the use of flavourings*
- c) *CXC 1 General Principles of Food Hygiene*
- d) *JS CRS 5, Labelling of pre-packaged foods — Specification*
- e) *JS 373, Ready to Eat Foods*
- f) *DJS 377 Alcoholic Mixed/Aromatized/ Ready to Drink Beverages*

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

The 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

alcohol, methyl (methanol)

simplest of all alcohols, having the chemical formula CH³OH. 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

alcoholic fermentation

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

3.6

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.

3.7

fermentation alcohol

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

3.8

flavoured vodka

vodka to which permitted flavourings are added, with or without permitted colours 2 © EAC 2025 – All rights reserved

3.9

inspection level

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

3.10

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.

3.11

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) can 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.

3.12

spirit

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.

3.13

strength

concentration of alcohol by volume which is present.

3.14

vodka

clear distilled alcoholic beverage made from the neutral spirit obtained from fermented mash of

rye, potato, cassava, grains or any other carbohydrates of agricultural origin which is then treated with charcoal or activated carbon or other materials to be without distinctive character, aroma, taste, or colour.

4 Requirements

4.1 General requirements

4.1.1 Vodka shall be free from sedimentation and suspended matter.

4.1.2 Flavouring agents, if used, shall comply with CXG 66.

4.1.3 Demineralised water or distilled water;

4.1.4 Neutral Spirit

4.2 Specific requirements

4.2.1 Vodka shall comply with the specific requirements given in Table 1 when tested in accordance with the test methods specified therein.

4.2.2 Vodka is a distilled undiluted alcoholic beverage made from any fermented, undiluted harmless vegetable article or the neutral spirit obtained from fermented mash of rye, potato, cassava, grains or any other carbohydrates of agricultural origin.

4.2.3 Vodka is a neutral spirit which may be treated with up to two grams per litre of sugar and up to one gram per litre of citric acid.

4.2.4 Unless flavoured, vodka does not have any distinctive characteristic, aroma, taste or colour.

4.2.5 Flavoured vodka is made out of vodka and permitted flavourings with or without permitted colours and sugar or sweetening agents. It has the taste and aroma which is clearly distinguishable from that of any other class of spirit.

4.2.6 The residual sugar content must not be more than 8.0g / L or 100g/L, if flavoured.

4.2.7 The ethyl alcohol content must be at least 40% for vodka or 35% if flavoured and maximum 50% for both.

Table 1 – Specific requirements for vodka S/N

Characteristics		Requirement
Ethyl alcohol content, % v/v, at 20 °C, min.		Min. 40 % Min. 35 % (flavoured) Max 50%
Methyl alcohol, g/L, of absolute alcohol max.		0.1 1.0 (flavoured)
Volatile acids as acetic acid, g/L of absolute alcohol, max.		0.1
Esters as ethyl acetate, g/L of absolute alcohol,	Vodka	0.1

max.	Flavoured vodka	1.0
Higher alcohol as amyl alcohol, g/L of absolute alcohol, max.	Vodka	0.03
	Flavoured vodka	0.2
Aldehydes as acetaldehyde, g/ L of absolute alcohol, max.	Vodka	0.02
	Flavoured vodka	0.2
Furfural (expressed as g/L of absolute alcohol), Max	Vodka	0.12

Table 2 — Heavy Metals

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

5 Food additives

5.1 Food additives may be used in the preparation of vodka in accordance with JS CODEX STAN 192.

6 Hygiene

6.1 Vodka shall be produced, processed, handled and stored in accordance with CXC 1 and JS 373.

6.2 Vodka shall comply with the microbiological limits given in Table 3 when tested in accordance with the test methods specified therein.

Table 3 — 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	< 25 CFU /100 ml	10 CFU

count		
Coliform count	< 1 CFU /100 ml	-
NOTE CFU- Colony Forming Unit		

7. Packaging

7.1 Vodka may be filled in glass liquor bottles or in any other suitable food grade containers, to ensure products safety and quality.

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

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

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

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

8. Labelling

8.1 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

8.2 No health claim shall be made on vodka.

8.3 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.



8.4 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., fetal alcohol syndrome).



8.5 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	-

9 Sampling

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.

9.1.1 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.

9.2 Scale of sampling

9.2.1 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.

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

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

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

9.2.5 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 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.

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

9.2.7 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.

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

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

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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