
Draft Jamaican Standard

Specification

for

Whiskey



BUREAU OF STANDARDS JAMAICA

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DRAFT JAMAICAN STANDARD

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Jamaica-Made Mark

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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 wine, 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, International Organization of Legal Metrology and International Organization of 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) *OIML R87 of the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML).*
- 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 Whiskey

1. Scope

This Standard specifies characteristics, labelling, packaging, requirements and sampling for Whiskey.

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 Codex STAN 192, *Jamaican General standard for food additives*
- c) CXS 193, *General standard for contaminants and toxins in food and feed*
- d) JS CRS 5, *Labelling of pre-packaged foods*
- e) CXC 1, *General principles of Food Hygiene*

3. Definitions

For the purpose of this standard the following definition applies:

3.1

acceptable Quality Limit (AQL)

AQL is the 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

age

length of time the rum has been placed in a wooden vat or barrel for continuous maturation.

3.4

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.

3.5

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.

3.6

alcoholic fermentation

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

3.7

caramel

colouring matter made by heating cane or other sugars under controlled conditions. It is a wholesome colouring matter widely used in the liquor and beverage industry.

3.8

distillation

process of purifying a liquid by vaporisation followed by condensation.

3.9

ethyl carbamate

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

3.10

fermentation alcohol

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

3.11

inspection level

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

3.12

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.

3.13

natural flavouring material

preparation acceptable for human consumption, obtained exclusively by physical processing from vegetable, and sometimes animal raw materials, either in their natural state or processed for human consumption.

3.14

rejection Number

number of non-conforming product that will not be accepted.

3.15

responsible authority

The responsible authority may be:

- a) the quality department within a supplier's organisation (first party);
- b) the purchaser or procurement organisation (second party);
- c) an independent verification or certification authority (third party);
- d) any of a), b) or c), differing according to function (see Note 2) as described in a written agreement between two of the parties, for example, a document between supplier and

purchaser.

**3.16
spirit**

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.

**3.17
spirit caramel**

caramel for use in rum that is negatively charged and specifically for the alcoholic strength of the product.

**3.18
strength**

concentration of alcohol by volume which is present.

4. General Requirements

4.1 Product Description

Table 1 — Requirements for Whiskey

Characteristic	Requirements
Total acidity, g/100 L, max	160
Total solids, % (m/v), max	0.25
Total ash, %, (m/v), max.	0.041
Volatile acids, as acetic acid, (mg/100 ml of absolute alcohol), max	120
Esters, as ethyl acetate (g/100 L of absolute alcohol), max.	Malt Whiskey 20 All other types 10
Methanol mg/l	50
Higher alcohols, as amyl alcohol (g/100 L of absolute alcohol), max	500
Aldehydes, as acetaldehyde (mg/100 mL of absolute alcohol), max.	16.4
Furfural (mg/100 mL of absolute alcohol), max.	18.5
Copper, mg/L, max.	1.0
Lead, mg/L, max.	0.1

Table 2 — Type Designations

Type	Source	Distillation proof	Storage	Neutral spirits permitted	Allowable colouring, flavouring, blending materials permitted
Whiskey, which may be used as the designation for any of the type designations under the class "Whiskey," or may be	Fermented grain mash	Less than 190°	Oak barrels with no minimum time	No	Yes

used as the designation if the Whiskey does not meet one of the type designations but satisfies the class designation			requirement		
Bourbon Whiskey, Rye Whiskey, Wheat Whiskey, Malt Whiskey, Rye Malt Whiskey, or [name of other grain] Whiskey	Fermented mash of not less than 51%, respectively: Corn, Rye, Wheat, Malted Barley, Malted Rye Grain, [Other grain]	160° or less	Charred new oak barrels at 125° or less	No	Yes, except for bourbon Whiskey
Corn Whiskey. (Whiskey conforming to this standard must be designated as “corn Whiskey.”)	Fermented mash of not less than 80% corn	160° or less	Required only if age is claimed on the label. If stored, must be stored at 125° or less in used or uncharred new oak barrels	No	Yes
Straight Whiskey	Fermented mash of less than 51% corn, rye, wheat, malted barley, malted rye [or other] grain. (Includes mixtures of straight whiskies made in the same state.)	160° or less	Charred new oak barrels at 125° or less for a minimum of 2 years	No	No
Straight Bourbon Whiskey, Straight Rye Whiskey, Straight Wheat Whiskey, Straight Malt Whiskey, or Straight Rye Malt Whiskey	Fermented mash of not less than 51%, respectively: Corn, Rye, Wheat, Malted	160° or less	Charred new oak barrels at 125° or less for a minimum of 2 years	No	No

	Barley, Malted Rye Grain				
Straight Corn Whiskey	Fermented mash of not less than 80% corn	160° or less	125° or less in used or uncharred new oak barrels for a minimum of 2 years	No	No
Whiskey distilled from Bourbon/Rye/Wheat/Malt/Rye Malt/[Name of other grain] mash	Fermented mash of not less than 51%, respectively: Corn, Rye, Wheat, Malted Barley, Malted Rye Grain, [Other grain]	160° or less	Used oak barrels	No	Yes
Light Whiskey	Fermented grain mash	More than 160°	Used or uncharred new oak barrels	No	Yes

Table 3 — 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 Whiskey may 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 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 minimise 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 Labels shall be so designed that the label statements remain conspicuous and legible under normal conditions of purchase and use. Such statements shall be on a contrasting background.

6.1.2 Labels shall be designed according to the mandatory labelling information required by 6.2.1 and 6.2.2. Labels may contain additional information, provided that such information does not conflict with, or in any manner qualify, those statements required by the mandatory labelling standards.

6.1.3 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.

6.1.4 No health claim shall be made on whiskey labels.

6.1.5 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



6.1.6 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).



6.1.7 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	-

6.2 Detailed requirements

6.2.1 The labelling requirements specified in this standard shall be in the official language(s) of the country in which the product is being sold and in addition, shall show the following on the principal display panel of the label:

- a) brand name;
- b) product name;
- c) alcoholic content; and
- d) net content.

6.2.2 The brand name shall appear in conjunction with the product name. Where it may be misleading, the word "brand" shall appear in direct conjunction with the brand name.

6.2.3 The net content shall be stated in appropriate units in accordance with the labelling requirements of the country of origin.

6.2.4 The net content shall be the average net content as determined by the sampling and measurement procedure set out in the most recent edition of International Recommendation OIML R87 of the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML).

6.2.5 The following additional statements shall appear on any part of the label:

- a) the name and address of the manufacturer; and
- b) the country of origin.

6.2.6 The name and address of the manufacturer shall be the name and address of the place of business of the distiller or bottler of the product. It shall be preceded by the words "Manufactured by....", "Distilled by....", "Bottled by...." as applicable.

6.2.7 The country of origin shall be prominently and clearly stated and it shall be immediately preceded by the words "Product of....".

7. Sampling

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

7.1 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.

7.1.1 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.

7.1.2 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 #.

7.1.3 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 the 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.

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

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

NOTE 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

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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