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**Herbal soaps — Specification**

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In order to match with technological development and to keep continuous progress in industries, standards are subject to periodic review. Users shall ascertain that they are in possession of the latest edition

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## Foreword

Rwanda Standards are prepared by Technical Committees and approved by Rwanda Standards Board (RSB) Board of Directors in accordance with the procedures of RSB, in compliance with Annex 3 of the WTO/TBT agreement on the preparation, adoption and application of standards.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare national standards. Final Draft Rwanda Standards adopted by Technical committees are ratified by members of RSB Board of Directors for publication and gazettment as Rwanda Standards.

DRS 360 was prepared by Technical Committee RSB/TC 42, *Surface Active Agents*.

In the preparation of this standard, reference was made to the following standard:

TZ 1009: Herbal Soap — Specification

The assistance derived from the above source is hereby acknowledged with thanks.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (RS 360: 2018), which has been technically revised.

## Committee membership

The following organizations were represented on the Technical Committee on *Surface Active Agents* (RSB/TC 42) in the preparation of this standard.

Standards for Sustainability

Rwanda Food and Drugs Authority

Rwanda Inspectorate, Competition and Consumer Protection Authority

HORIZON/SOPYRWA

University of Rwanda/College of Science and Technology

ORIBUT Company Ltd

AMABOKO Y'URWANDA Ltd

Rwanda Investigation Bureau

Hygiene and Paper Works Ltd

SULFO Rwanda Industries

Rwanda Standards Board (RSB) – Secretariat

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## Herbal soaps — Specification

### 1 Scope

This Draft Rwanda Standard prescribes the requirements, sampling and test methods for herbal soaps.

It covers the following types of herbal soap:

- a) herbal bathing soap;
- b) herbal laundry soap; and
- c) herbal liquid soap.

### 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.

RS 333, *Herbal cosmetic products – General requirements*

RS EAS 377, *Cosmetics and cosmetic products (all parts)*

RS EAS 346, *Labelling of cosmetics — General requirements*

RS 278, *Cosmetics – Methods of sampling*

RS ISO 457, *Analysis of soap — Determination of Chloride content — Titrimetric method*

RS ISO 456, *Surface active agents — Analysis of soaps — Determination of free caustic alkali*

RS ISO 684, *Analysis of soap — Determination of Total free alkali*

RS ISO 685, *Analysis of soap — Determination of alkali content and total fatty matter content*

RS ISO 673, *Analysis of soap — Determination of ethanol insoluble matter*

RS ISO 862, *Surface active agents — Vocabulary*

RS ISO 1067, *Analysis of soap — Determination of unsaponifiable, unsaponified and unsaponified saponifiable matter*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this standard, the terms and definitions given in RS 333 and the following apply.

#### herbal soaps

any laundry, bathing or liquid soap which contains herbal oil and/or herbal extracts

### 4 Requirements

#### 4.1 General requirements

**4.1.1** To ensure the quality of the product and the well-being of the consumer, herbal soaps shall conform to requirements prescribed in RS 333.

**4.1.2** The Herbal soaps shall not contain less than 1.5 % of herbal content. The manufacturer should set the maximum limit of herbal content based on scientific researches and according to the type of herbs used in formulation.

**4.1.3** All the ingredients used, including fragrances, preservatives, colorants or super-fatting agents, if added shall conform to the requirements in RS EAS 377 (all parts).

**4.1.4** Herbal bathing soap shall:

- a) be high graded, thoroughly saponified milled soaps or homogenized soap or both, white or coloured and compressed in the form of firm cakes.
- b) shall possess good cleaning and lathering properties.

**4.1.5** The herbal laundry soap shall be of firm texture, shall be free from objectionable odour and shall possess good lathering.

**4.1.6** The herbal liquid soap shall:

- a) be in a form of a liquid or emulsion;
- b) be opaque or transparent, coloured or colourless and perfumed or unperfumed;
- c) be of uniform consistency, free from sediments and suspended particles;
- d) be easily spreadable;
- e) have good lathering and rinsing properties; and

f) be non-toxic and non-irritant.

#### 4.2 Specific requirements

Liquid bathing soap shall also comply with the specific requirements specified in Table 1 when tested in accordance with the test methods specified therein.

**Table 1 — Requirements for herbal soap**

S/No	Characteristic	Requirements			Test methods
		Herbal bathing soap	Herbal laundry soap	Herbal liquid soap	
1	Total fatty matter % by mass, min	50	45	15	ISO 685
2	Matter insoluble in alcohol % by mass, max	2	20	5	ISO 673
3	Matter insoluble in water % by mass, max	-	5	-	ISO 6839
4	Total free fat (unsaponified and unsaponifiable fatty matter), % by mass, max	0.5	2	-	ISO 1067
5	Free caustic alkali as (NaOH), % by mass, max	0.1	0.4	0.03	ISO 684
6	Total free alkali as Na <sub>2</sub> O/ K <sub>2</sub> O, % by mass, max	-	0.25	0.03	ISO 29456
7	Chlorides, % by mass, max	0.8	1.5	-	ISO 457
8	pH at 27°C	6.0 – 8.0	-	6.0 – 8.0	Annex A

#### 5 Packaging

The herbal soaps shall be packaged in suitable materials that do not allow any damage of the product or its contamination. The containers shall be securely closed.

#### 6 Labelling

In addition to the labelling requirements of RS EAS 346, the following information shall be indelibly and legibly marked on the container:

- a) product name that is "Herbal soap";
- b) percentage of herbal preparations used;

NOTE 1 In case of antibacterial soaps, the antibacterial agent used and its concentration in the product shall be declared on the label.

## 7 Sampling

For the purpose of this Rwanda Standard, general precaution, scale of sampling and preparation of test samples shall be done as prescribed in RS 278.

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## Annex A (normative)

### Determination of pH

#### A.1 General

pH determination should be made in an acid free atmosphere.

#### A.2 Apparatus

**A.2.1 Any standard pH meter**, equipped with a low sodium error glass electrode. The instrument shall be calibrated and standardized with standard buffer solutions (see D.3.2) before use.

**A.2.2 Volumetric flask**, 1000-mL capacity

**A.2.3 Beakers**, 1000-mL

#### A.3 Reagents

**A.3.1** Distilled water shall be boiled thoroughly or purged with carbon dioxide-free air to remove carbon dioxide and shall be protected with soda lime or soda asbestos while cooling and in storage. The pH of this water shall be protected with soda lime or soda asbestos while cooling and in storage. The pH of this water shall be between 6.2 and 7.2 at 27 °C. The residue on evaporation when heated at 105 °C for one hour shall not exceed 0.5 mL per litre.

**A.3.2** Standard buffer solutions with the pH range of 9 to 11 at 27 °C for calibrating the pH meter.

#### A.4 Procedure

Weigh to the nearest milligram approximately 10 g of the material and transfer to a 1-L volumetric flask. Partially fill the flask with distilled water and agitate until the sample is completely dissolved. Adjust the temperature of the solution and the distilled water to 27 °C ± 2 °C and fill to the calibration mark with distilled water, stopper the flask mix thoroughly and allow the solution to stand at a temperature of 27 °C ± 2 °C for two hours prior to measuring the pH. Measure the pH of the solution at 27 °C ± 2 °C using a glass electrode.

## Bibliography

- [1] KS 1795, *Neem herbal soap — Specification*
- [2] TZS 883, *Neem herbal soap — Specification*
- [3] TZS 894, *Jatropha herbal soap — Specification*
- [4] IS 15735, *Herbal cosmetics — General guidelines*
- [5] RS EAS 186-1, *Bathing soap — Specification — Part 1: Solid*
- [6] RS EAS 186-2, *Bathing soap — Specification — Part 2: Liquid*

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