

---

**Alcoholic mixed beverages — Specification**



**Table of contents**

1	Scope .....	1
2	Normative references .....	1
3	Terms and definitions .....	2
4	Requirements .....	2
4.1	Ingredients .....	2
4.2	General requirements .....	3
4.3	Specific requirements .....	3
5	Food additives .....	3
6	Contaminants .....	3
6.1	Heavy metals .....	3
6.2	Pesticide residues .....	3
7	Hygiene .....	3
8	Packaging .....	4
9	Labelling .....	4
10	Sampling .....	4
	Bibliography .....	5

## Foreword

The African Organization for Standardization (ARSO) is an African intergovernmental organization established by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the Organization of African Unity (AU) in 1977. One of the fundamental mandates of ARSO is to develop and harmonize African Standards (ARS) for the purpose of enhancing Africa's internal trading capacity, increase Africa's product and service competitiveness globally and uplift the welfare of African communities. The work of preparing African Standards is normally carried out through ARSO technical committees. Each Member State interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), governmental and non-governmental organizations, in liaison with ARSO, also take part in the work.

ARSO Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare ARSO Standards. Draft ARSO Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an ARSO Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ARSO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This African Standard was prepared by ARSO/TC 18, *Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages*.

© African Organisation for Standardisation 2026 — All rights reserved\*

ARSO Central Secretariat  
International House 3rd Floor  
P. O. Box 57363 — 00200 City Square  
NAIROBI, KENYA

Tel. +254-20-2224561, +254-20-3311641, +254-20-3311608

E-mail: [arso@arso-oran.org](mailto:arso@arso-oran.org)  
Web: [www.arso-oran.org](http://www.arso-oran.org)

---

\* © 2026 ARSO — All rights of exploitation reserved worldwide for African Member States' NSBs.

**Copyright notice**

This ARSO document is copyright-protected by ARSO. While the reproduction of this document by participants in the ARSO standards development process is permitted without prior permission from ARSO, neither this document nor any extract from it may be reproduced, stored or transmitted in any form for any other purpose without prior written permission from ARSO.

Requests for permission to reproduce this document for the purpose of selling it should be addressed as shown below or to ARSO's member body in the country of the requester:

© African Organisation for Standardisation 2026 — All rights reserved

ARSO Central Secretariat  
International House 3rd Floor  
P.O. Box 57363 — 00200 City Square  
NAIROBI, KENYA

Tel: +254-20-2224561, +254-20-3311641, +254-20-3311608

E-mail: [arso@arso-oran.org](mailto:arso@arso-oran.org)  
Web: [www.arso-oran.org](http://www.arso-oran.org)

Reproduction for sales purposes may be subject to royalty payments or a licensing agreement. Violators may be prosecuted.

## Alcoholic mixed beverages — Specification

### 1 Scope

1.1 This African standard specifies requirements, methods of sampling and test for ready to drink alcoholic beverages for human consumption.

1.2 This standard does not apply to the following categories of products:

- a) spirits;
- b) wines;
- c) liqueurs;
- d) beers;
- e) malt beverages;
- f) cider and perry;
- g) mead; and
- h) distilled spirituous beverages.

### 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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.

ARS 53, *General principles of food hygiene — Code of practice*

ARS 56, *Pre-packaged foods — Labelling*

ARS 471, *Food grade salt — Specification*

ARS 2221, *Carbon dioxide for beverage industry — Specification*

ARS 2223, *Distilled water — Specification*

ARS 2229, *Alcoholic beverages — Methods of sampling and test*

ARS 2230, *Neutral spirit — Specification*

ARS 2232, *Potable water — Specification*

ARS 2233, *Potable spirit — Specification*

CXG 66, *Guidelines for the use of flavourings*

CXS 192, *Codex general standard for food additives*

ISO 2447, *Fruit and vegetable products — Determination of tin content*

ISO 4831, *Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs — Horizontal method for the detection and enumeration of coliforms — Most probable number technique*

ISO 4832, *Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs — Horizontal method for the enumeration of coliforms — Colony-count technique*

ISO 4833-1, *Microbiology of the food chain — Horizontal method for the enumeration of microorganisms — Part 1: Colony count at 30 °C by the pour plate technique*

# DARS 2218:2026

ISO 5377, *Starch hydrolysis products — Determination of reducing power and dextrose equivalent — Lane and Eynon constant titre method*

ISO 5379, *Starches and derived products — Determination of sulfur dioxide content — Acidimetric method and nephelometric method*

ISO/TS 6733, *Milk and milk products — Determination of lead content — Graphite furnace atomic absorption spectrometric method*

ISO 8128-1, *Apple juice, apple juice concentrates and drinks containing apple juice — Determination of patulin content — Part 1: Method using high-performance liquid chromatography*

ISO 17239, *Fruits, vegetables and derived products — Determination of arsenic content — Method using hydride generation atomic absorption spectrometry*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purpose of this standard, the following terms and definitions apply.

### 3.1

#### **ready to drink alcoholic beverages**

carbonated or non-carbonated alcoholic beverages derived from blending of distilled spirituous beverages or aromatized alcoholic beverages or other alcohol bases or the mixtures of these with natural/nature identical/artificial permitted additives

### 3.2

#### **distilled spirituous beverages**

alcoholic beverages derived from grain, tubers, fruits or sugar cane through distillation

NOTE 1 Distilled spirituous beverages may include and not limited to brandy (distilled wine), cordials, liqueurs, gin, tequila, whiskey, and vodka.

### 3.3

#### **aromatized alcoholic beverages**

alcoholic drinks that are either distilled or those combining alcohol with added flavours, botanicals, herbs, spices, fruits, or other natural ingredients.

## 4 Requirements

### 4.1 Ingredients

#### 4.1.1 Essential ingredients

Essential ingredients used to produce ready to drink alcoholic beverages shall include the following:

- a) water complying with ARS 2232;
- b) extract base that can include sugar, malt/cereal extract, and fruit juice extract complying with applicable standards;
- c) neutral spirit complying with ARS 2230 or potable spirit complying with ARS 2233 or other alcoholic beverage bases complying with applicable standards; and
- d) flavouring extract materials complying with CXG 66.

#### 4.1.2 Optional ingredients

Optional ingredients may include:

- a) edible salt complying with ARS 471;

- b) carbon dioxide complying with ARS 2221; and
- c) phosphates, if used in the alcohol-base material, complying with CXS 192.

#### 4.2 General requirements

Ready to drink alcoholic beverages shall be free from harmful ingredients that are injurious to human health.

#### 4.3 Specific requirements

Ready to drink alcoholic beverages shall comply with the specific requirements given in Table 1 when tested in accordance with the test methods specified therein.

**Table 1 — Specific requirements for ready to drink alcoholic beverages**

S/No	Parameter	Requirement	Test method	
i.	pH	2.5 – 6.0	ARS 2229	
ii.	Total acidity, as citric, tartaric, g/L, max.	8.0		
iii.	Ethyl alcohol content, % v/v	Alcoholic		0.5 – 20.0
		Non-alcoholic		Less than 0.5
iv.	Carbon dioxide <sup>a</sup> , g/L, max.	1.5-6		
v.	Sugar, g/L, max.	200		
vi.	Methyl alcohol, g/L, max.	0.06		

<sup>a</sup> Applies to the carbonated alcoholic beverages.

### 5 Food additives

Food additives may be used in accordance with CXS 192.

### 6 Contaminants

#### 6.1 Heavy metals

Ready to drink alcoholic beverages shall comply with the heavy metal limits given in Table 2 when tested in accordance with the test methods specified therein.

**Table 2 — Heavy metal limits for ready to drink alcoholic beverages**

S/No	Heavy metal	Limit, mg/kg, max.	Test method
i.	Arsenic (As)	0.1	ISO 17239
ii.	Lead (Pb)	0.1	ISO/TS 6733
iii.	Tin (Sn) (for the canned beverages)	150	ISO 2447

#### 6.2 Pesticide residues

Ready to drink alcoholic beverages shall comply with the pesticide residue limits specified in Codex Alimentarius Commission food online database.

### 7 Hygiene

7.1 Ready to drink alcoholic beverages shall be produced, processed, handled and stored in accordance with ARS 53.

# DARS 2218:2026

7.2 Ready to drink alcoholic beverages 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 ready to drink alcoholic beverages**

S/No.	Microorganism	Limit	Test method
i.	<i>Coliforms</i> , MPN/mL or <i>Coliforms</i> , CFU/mL	Not detected	ISO 4831 or ISO 4832
ii.	Total plate count, CFU/mL, max.	100	ISO 4833-1

## 8 Packaging

Ready to drink alcoholic beverages shall be packaged in food grade containers that shall not affect the quality and the safety of the product.

## 9 Labelling

In addition to the labelling requirements given in ARS 56, each package shall be legibly and indelibly labelled with the following information:

- a) name of the product;
- b) name, physical and postal address of the manufacturer, importer or bottler;
- 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 for mixed alcoholic beverages with less 10 % v/v;
- h) batch identification number/code;
- i) country of origin;
- j) statutory warnings, where applicable.

## 10 Sampling

Sampling shall be done in accordance with ARS 2229.

**Bibliography**

EAS 1276:2025, *Alcoholic mixed beverages — Specification*

Draft African Standard for comments only — Not to be cited as African Standard



Draft African Standard for comments only — Not to be cited as African Standard