
Potable spirit — Specification



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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
Web: www.arso-oran.org

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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
Web: www.arso-oran.org

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Potable spirit — Specification

1 Scope

This African standard specifies requirements, methods of sampling and test for potable spirits.

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

ARS 2230, *Neutral spirit — Specification*

CXG 66, *Guidelines for the use of flavourings*

3 Terms and definitions

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

3.1

potable spirit

ethyl alcohol product obtained by distilling fermented carbohydrate material or mixing neutral spirit with potable water in proportions suitable for human consumption with or without flavour

3.2

alcohol

as ethyl alcohol (C₂H₅OH)

3.3

neutral spirit

distillate obtained from fermented carbohydrate material, purified by fractional distillation with the removal of fusel oil and furfural

4 Requirements

4.1 Essential ingredients

4.1.1 The ingredients for potable spirit shall include the following:

- a) demineralised water or distilled water complying with relevant standards.
- b) neutral spirit, if used for blending, conforming to ARS 2230
- c) flavouring agents, if used, shall comply with CXG 66

4.2 General requirements

4.2.1 Potable spirit shall:

- a) possess the characteristic aroma associated with the product and free of foreign odour;

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- b) be clear and free of particulate matter;
- c) have characteristic taste and free of foreign taste.

4.3 Specific requirements

Potable spirit shall comply with the specific quality requirements in Table 1 when tested in accordance with the test method specified therein.

Table 1 — Specific requirements for potable spirit

S/No	Characteristic	Requirement	Test method
i.	Alcohol, % v/v at 20 °C, min.	35	ARS 2229
ii.	Volatile acidity, as acetic acid, g/L of absolute alcohol, max.	0.05	
iii.	Aldehydes, as acetaldehyde, g/L of absolute alcohol, max.	0.25	
iv.	Methanol content, g/L, max.	0.1	
v.	Higher alcohols (fusel oil), as amyl alcohol, g/L of absolute alcohol, max.	0.03	

5 Food additives

Food additives when used in the preparation of potable spirit shall comply with CXS 192.

6 Hygiene

Potable spirit shall be manufactured and handled in a hygienic manner in accordance with ARS 56.

7 Packaging

Potable spirit for retail and bulk delivery shall be packaged in suitable food grade containers that safeguard its quality and safety.

8 Labelling

In addition to the requirements of ARS 56, the following specific labelling requirements shall apply and shall be legibly and indelibly marked:

- a) common name as 'Potable spirit';
- b) name and physical address of manufacturer/ importer/bottler;
- c) ethyl alcohol content, percent by volume;
- d) net content;
- e) date of manufacturer
- f) batch identification number/code;
- g) country of origin; and
- h) statutory warnings

9 Sampling

Sampling of potable spirit shall be done in accordance with ARS 2229.

Bibliography

EAS 109:2018, Potable *spirits* – *Specification*

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