
Whisky — Specification



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Whisky — Specification

1 Scope

This African standard specifies requirements, sampling and test methods for whisky (whiskey) for human consumption.

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*

CXS 192, *Codex general standard for food additives*

3 Terms and definitions

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

3.1

whisky

distilled alcoholic beverage produced from a fermented mash of cereal grain with or without aging

3.4

blended whisky

mixture of whiskies, or a whisky with neutral spirit

4 Requirements

4.1 Essential Ingredients

Essential ingredients for rum shall include:

- demineralized water or distilled water complying with relevant standards.
- neutral spirit; shall conforming to ARS 2230

4.2 Flavourings

Flavourings may be used in the manufacture of rum and shall be in accordance with CXG 66.

4.3 General requirements

4.3.1 Whisky shall

- a) have the aroma and taste characteristic of the product;
- b) be free from sediments and/or suspended matter; and

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c) be free from any ingredients injurious to health.

4.4 Specific requirements

4.3.1 Whisky shall also comply with the requirements given in Table 1 when tested in accordance with the test methods specified therein.

Table 1 — Requirements for whisky

SI No	Characteristic	Requirement	Method of test	
i.	Ethyl alcohol, %, v/v at 20 °C, min.	37.5	ARS 2229	
ii.	Volatile acids as acetic acid, mg/L of absolute alcohol, max	Not matured		400
		matured		2000
iii.	Higher alcohols as amyl alcohol, mg/ L of absolute alcohol, max.	Not matured		2 400
		matured		6000
iv.	Aldehydes as acetaldehyde, mg/L absolute alcohol, max	500		
v.	Methyl alcohol, mg/L, max.	Not matured	200	
		matured	500	

4.3.2 Blended whisky shall have a minimum of 10 % of absolute alcohol volume from whisky when neutral spirit is used.

5 Food additives

Food additives may be used in the preparation of whisky in accordance with CXS 192.

6 Hygiene

Whisky shall be manufactured and handled in a hygienic manner in accordance with ARS 53.

7 Packaging

7.1 Whisky shall be packaged in suitable food grade containers.

7.2 Whisky shall be packaged for bulk delivery and storage in containers that shall prevent contamination of the product and preserve its safety and quality.

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 'Whisky or Blended whisky';
- b) name, physical location and address of manufacturer; importer/bottler
- c) ethyl alcohol content, % by volume;
- d) net content;
- e) batch identification number/code;
- f) country of origin; and
- g) statutory warnings.

9 Sampling

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

Bibliography

EAS 141:2018, *Whisky — Specification*

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