

DRAFT UGANDA STANDARD

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Alcoholic beverages —Ready to Drink (RTD) — Specification



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Foreword

Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) is a parastatal under the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives established under Cap 327, of the Laws of Uganda, as amended. UNBS is mandated to coordinate the elaboration of standards and is

- (a) a member of International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) and
- (b) a contact point for the WHO/FAO Codex Alimentarius Commission on Food Standards, and
- (c) the National Enquiry Point on TBT Agreement of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

The work of preparing Uganda Standards is carried out through Technical Committees. A Technical Committee is established to deliberate on standards in a given field or area and consists of key stakeholders including government, academia, consumer groups, private sector and other interested parties.

Draft Uganda Standards adopted by the Technical Committee are widely circulated to stakeholders and the general public for comments. The committee reviews the comments before recommending the draft standards for approval and declaration as Uganda Standards by the National Standards Council.

The committee responsible for this document is Technical Committee UNBS/TC 209, *[Alcoholic beverages]*

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (US 1598:2015), which has been technically revised.

Introduction

Alcoholic Ready to drink beverages (RTDs) are primarily spirit based, malt based or wine based alcoholic drink. RTDs by nature are sweet flavoured alcoholic beverages. These drinks are served in premixed form and are ready for consumption at any time.

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Alcoholic beverages — Ready to Drink (RTD) — Specification

1 Scope

This Draft Uganda Standard specifies the requirements, sampling and test methods for Ready to Drink alcoholic beverages (RTD).

This standard does not apply to the following categories of products for which other standards apply: Spirits, Wines, Liqueurs, Beers, Malt beverages, Cider and Perry, Mead, Distilled spirituous beverages

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents 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.

CAC/GL 66, *Guidelines for use of flavourings*

CAC/MRL 2, *Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) and Risk Management Recommendations (RMRs) for residues of veterinary drugs in foods*

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*

US 216-1, *Carbondioxide for use in the manufacture of beverages – part 1: Specifications*

US 217-1/EAS 217-1, *Methods for the microbiological examination of foods — Part 1: General procedures and techniques*

US 28, *Code of practice for hygiene in the food and drink manufacturing industry*

US 45, *General Standard for food additives*

US 738, *General standard for contaminants and toxins in food and feed*

US 1659, *Materials in contact with food - Requirements for packaging materials*

US EAS 104, *Alcoholic beverages — Methods of sampling and test*

US EAS 109, *Potable spirit – Specification*

US EAS 12, *Potable water — Specification*

US EAS 144, *Neutral spirit – Specification*

US EAS 38, *Labelling of pre-packaged foods — General requirements*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

3.1

ready to drink alcoholic beverages

low strength carbonated or non-carbonated and pasteurized or sterile filtered and aseptically packaged alcoholic beverages derived from blending of neutral spirits and other spiritous/alcohol bases with permitted food additives

3.2

food grade material

packaging material, made of substances which are safe and suitable for their intended use and which will not impart any toxic substance or undesirable odour or flavour to the product

4 Requirements

4.1 Ingredients

4.1.1 Essential ingredients

The following ingredients shall be used for the production of ready to drink alcoholic beverages shall include the following:

- a) water conforming to US EAS 12
- b) extract base that can include Sugar, Malt/ cereal extract, Fruit Juice extract conforming to applicable standards
- c) neutral spirit conforming to US EAS 144 or potable spirit conforming to US EAS 109 or other alcoholic beverage bases conforming to applicable standards

4.1.2 Optional ingredients

These may include;

- d) flavouring agents, if used, in accordance with CAC/GL 66
- e) carbon dioxide if used in accordance with US 216-1

4.2 General requirements

4.2.1 Freedom from harmful ingredients

The product shall be free from sediments or suspended foreign matter except for the components incorporated in colloidal suspension and roughage from fruit/juice.

4.2.2 Taste and aroma

The product shall possess the characteristics taste and aroma associated with respective base spirit. To enhance the characteristic flavor of the product, permitted flavors may be used.

4.3 Specific quality requirements

Ready To Drink alcoholic beverages shall comply with the compositional requirements specified in Table 1 when tested in accordance with US EAS 104.

Table 1 — Quality requirements for Ready to Drink alcoholic beverages

S/No	Characteristic	Requirement
i	pH	2.7 – 4.5
ii	Total acidity, g/L, as citric	2.00 – 7.00
iii	Volatile acidity, g/L, max.	0.5
iv	Ethyl alcohol content, %, v/v	3.00 – 8.00
v	Carbon dioxide, %, v/v max.	3
vi	Sugar, g/L max	200
vii	Methyl alcohol, mg/L max	30

5 Contaminants and toxins

5.1 Ready to Drink alcoholic beverage shall conform to the relevant provisions of US 738.

5.2 The maximum limits for heavy metal contaminants in Ready to Drink alcoholic beverage shall comply with the requirements in Table 2 when tested in accordance with US EAS 104.

Table 2 — Contaminants limits for Ready to Drink alcoholic beverage

S/No	Contaminant	Maximum limit, mg/L
i	Copper (as Cu)	2
ii	Lead (as Pb)	0.1
iii	Arsenic, (as As)	0.1
iv	Zinc (as Zn).	5

6 Pesticide residues

Ready to Drink alcoholic beverage shall conform to the maximum residue limits specified in CAC/MRL 2

7 Microbiological limits

The maximum limits for microbiological contaminants in ready to drink alcoholic beverage shall comply with the requirements in Table 3 when tested in accordance with US 217-1/EAS 217-1.

Table 3 — Microbiological limits for ready to drink alcoholic drink

S/No.	Organism	Limit	Test method
i)	Coliforms	Absent	ISO 4832
ii)	Total plate count, cfu/mL, max.	100	ISO 4833-1

8 Hygiene

Ready To Drink alcoholic beverage shall be produced, processed, handled and stored in accordance with US 28 EAS 39.

9 Food additives

Ready To Drink alcoholic beverage shall conform to the requirements of US 45.

10. Weights and measures

The packages shall comply with the Weights and measures regulations of Uganda

10 Packaging

10.1 Ready To Drink alcoholic beverage shall be packaged in food grade containers, which protect the product from damage.

10.2 The packaging materials used shall conform to the requirements given in US 1659.

11 Labelling

In addition to the requirements of US EAS 38, the following specific provisions apply:

- a) name of the product shall be "Ready to Drink Alcoholic Beverage" in close proximity to the brand name;
- b) name, physical location and address of manufacturer;
- c) ethyl alcohol content, 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;
- h) batch identification number/code;
- i) country of origin;
- j) storage condition; and
- k) a statement "Not for sale to persons under 18 years".

12 Sampling and methods of test

Sampling and testing shall be carried out in accordance with US EAS 104.

Certification marking

Products that conform to Uganda standards may be marked with Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) Certification Mark shown in the figure below.

The use of the UNBS Certification Mark is governed by the Standards Act, and the Regulations made thereunder. This mark can be used only by those licensed under the certification mark scheme operated by the Uganda National Bureau of Standards and in conjunction with the relevant Uganda Standard. The presence of this mark on a product or in relation to a product is an assurance that the goods comply with the requirements of that standard under a system of supervision, control and testing in accordance with the certification mark scheme of the Uganda National Bureau of Standards. UNBS marked products are continually checked by UNBS for conformity to that standard.

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