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Handmade Baskets Specification

Part 1: Twined and other related handmade baskets



**Kenya Bureau of
Standards**

Standards for Quality life

Public review draft

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In order to keep abreast of progress in industry, Kenya Standards shall be regularly reviewed. Suggestions for improvements to published standards, addressed to the Managing Director, Kenya Bureau of Standards, are welcome.

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Handmade Baskets Specification

Part 1: Twined and other related handmade baskets

Kenya Bureau of Standards, Popo Road, Off Mombasa Road,
P.O. Box 54974 - 00200, Nairobi, Kenya



+254 020 6948000, + 254 722202137, + 254 734600471



info@kebs.org



@KEBS_ke



kenya bureau of standards (kebs)

Foreword

This Kenya Standard was prepared by the joint Technical Committee on Handmade Textiles products and Ready Made Garments under the guidance of the Standards Projects Committee, and it is in accordance with the procedures of the Kenya Bureau of Standards

The twined and other handmade baskets are indigenous to diverse ethnic communities in Kenya such as the Kamba, Kikuyu and Taita. Historically, women wove baskets to serve in transporting or storing the harvest. Africa is an agricultural continent, and the basket first found its significance in support of this activity. Other than for agricultural use, baskets were woven for other purposes like storing food, shopping, or as gifts. These baskets were made of different kinds of indigenous fibrous plants, from which yarn was produced to weave into baskets. Red ochre, a colour extracted from plant bark and used to dye fabrics as well, was one of the colouring materials used by indigenous weavers. The standard has therefore been developed to promote the trade of these products while ensuring good quality baskets are made. The standard will also act as guide for those who wants to venture into the business.

In the development of this standard, information and data from handmade baskets weavers were used.

Acknowledgement is hereby made for the assistance received from them.

1. SCOPE

This Kenya Standard specifies the requirements for twined and other related handmade baskets. This include; Kiondo or 'kyondo' kikapu and kidasi among others.

This standard is not applicable to the fireless cooker basket which is covered by part 2 of this standard.

2. Normative references

In this text there are no references documents referred to.

3. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this standard, the following definitions shall apply:

3.1 Twined handmade baskets- baskets made from interlacing twisted warps and wefts of different designs, shape and size are made out of synthetic materials or natural materials such as sisal, banana sheath, leaves, sisal, papyrus reeds, palm leaves, Sterculia Africana (Mrungua / Mweja) and wool. Examples are as illustrated in Figure 1

3.2 other related handmade baskets- this includes baskets which are not twined and are of different designs, shape and size are made out of synthetic materials or natural materials such as sisal, banana sheath, sisal, papyrus reeds and Palm leaves. Examples are as illustrated in Figure 2

3.3 warp - these are the strands that stand upright and form the side supports of the basket; they are much stiffer than the weft and are strong. See figure 4

3.4 weft - these are the basket strands that weave through the warp, they are lighter, thinner and more flexible than the warp, to enable them to be woven in and out as illustrated in figure 4

3.5 Base -This is the bottom part of the basket, which the basket sits on

3.6 Top Rim of the basket-The top end of the basket, the open end that is finished

3.7 Height of the basket-The measurement of the basket from base to top

4. REQUIREMENTS

4.1 General requirements

4.1.1 The twines used for making twined handmade baskets shall be uniformly twisted and have uniform thickness.

4.1.2 The handmade baskets shall be in good shape and free from any defects like tears, unintended holes, stains, loose threads and any other defect that might affect their usability.

4.1.3 The top rim of the handmade baskets shall be uniformly and securely finished in a way that it does not come out easily.

4.1.4 For the twined baskets, the warps used for weaving the basket shall be of slightly longer than the height of the basket to avoid joints of the warps during weaving which creates weak joints as illustrated in example given in Figure 3

5.0 Labelling

Each basket shall have a label bearing the following information;

- a) manufacturer's name or registered trade mark;
- b) Dimensions of the basket
- c) Type of material used
- d) country of manufacture

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Annex A

Handmade baskets



Figure 1: Twined baskets



Figure 2: Other related handmade baskets



Figure 3: Torn basket as a result of weak joints



Warp(maleri)

weft

Figure 4: Weaving of the basket

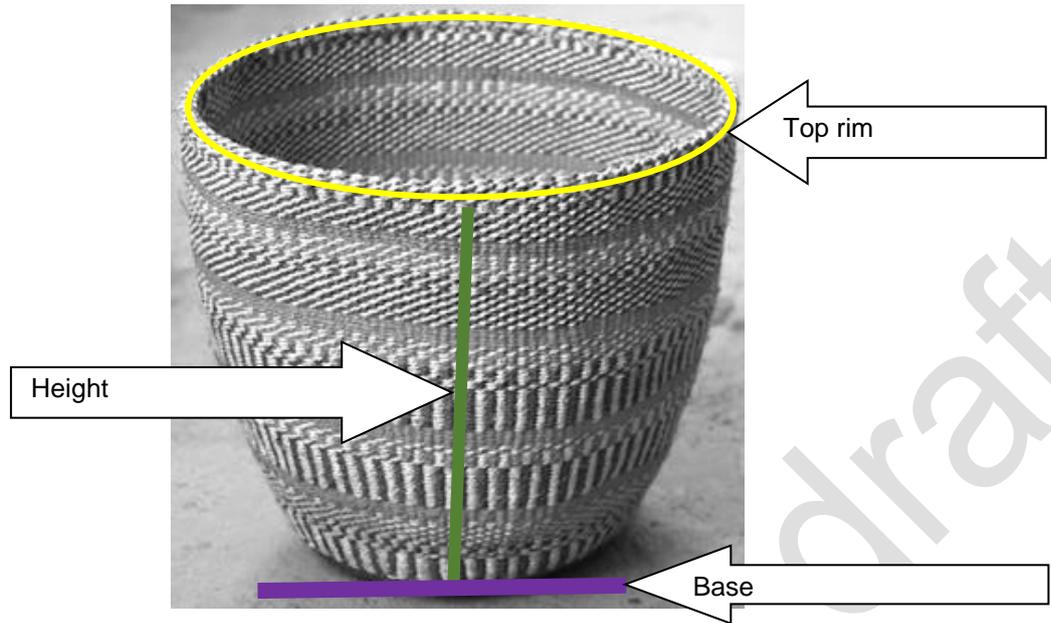


Figure 5: Measurement of baskets

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