

ICS 67.160.20

DMS 880:2017
First edition

DRAFT MALAWI STANDARD

Synthetic syrups – Specification

NOTE – This is a draft proposal and shall neither be used nor regarded as a Malawi standard

Synthetic syrups – Specification

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Price based on 3 pages

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FOREWORD

This draft Malawi standard has been prepared by MBS/TC 11, the Technical Committee on *Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages* to provide requirements for synthetic syrups.

In preparing this draft Malawi standard reference was made to the following standard:

Indian Standard, IS 4935:1968 (Reaffirmed in 1979), *Synthetic syrups – Specification*.

Acknowledgement is made for the use of the above standard.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

This draft Malawi standard was prepared by MBS/TC 11, the Technical Committee on *Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages*, and the following companies, organizations and institutions were represented:

Castel Malawi Brewery Limited;
Chibuku Products Limited;
Competition and Fair Trading Commission;
Consumer Association of Malawi;
Environmental Affairs Department;
Immortals Limited;
Lilongwe Dairy (2001) Limited;
Malawi Environment Protection Authority;
Malawi Revenue Authority;
Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences;
Ministry of Health;
Ministry of Local Government;
Ministry of Trade and Industry;
Rab Processors Limited;
Shoprite Limited;
Universal Industries Limited; and
University of Malawi.

NOTICE

This draft standard shall be reviewed every five years, or earlier whenever it is necessary, in order to keep abreast of progress. Comments are welcome and shall be considered when the standard is being reviewed.

DRAFT MALAWI STANDARD

Synthetic syrups – Specification

1 SCOPE

This draft Malawi standard specifies the requirements and the methods of sampling and test for synthetic (flavoured) syrups.

2 NORMATIVE REFERENCES

The following standards contain provisions, which through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this Malawi standard. All standards are subject to revision and, since any reference to a standard is deemed to be a reference to the latest edition of that standard, parties to agreements based on this standard are encouraged to take steps to ensure the use of the most recent edition of the standards indicated below. Information on current valid national and international standards can be obtained from the Malawi Bureau of Standards.

MS 19: *Labelling of prepacked foods – General standard;*

MS 21: *Food and food processing units – Code of hygienic conditions;*

MS 23: *Processed fruits and vegetables – Methods of test;*

MS 214: *Drinking water – Specification;*

MS 237: *Food additives – General standard;*

MS 302: *Contaminants and toxins in foods – General standard;*

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

ISO 4833-2: *Microbiology of the food chain – Horizontal method for the enumeration of microorganisms – Part 2: Colony count at 30 °C by the surface plating;*

ISO 6579: *Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs – Horizontal method for the detection of Salmonella spp;*

ISO 7251: *Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs – Horizontal method for the detection and enumeration of presumptive Escherichia coli – Most probable number technique; and*

ISO 21527-1: *Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs – Horizontal method for the enumeration of yeasts and moulds – Part 1: Colony count technique in products with water activity greater than 0.95.*

3 TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this draft standard, the following terms and definitions shall apply;

3.1**extraneous matter**

includes inorganic matter such as sand, glass, metal, gravel, dirt, pebbles, stones, lumps of earth, clay and mud and organic matter such as chaff, straw and fruit matter, insects or insects fragments, rodent hairs or any other foreign matter

3.2**potable water**

water complying with the requirements of MS 214

3.3

synthetic syrup

clear and transparent beverage composed of potable water and permitted flavouring substance with sucrose, dextrose, invert sugar, liquid glucose either singly or in combination

4 ESSENTIAL COMPOSITION AND QUALITY FACTORS

4.1 Preparation

Synthetic syrups shall be prepared only from sucrose, invert sugar, dextrose, liquid glucose, potable water, harmless herbs, dry fruits, flower petals and essences. Synthetic syrups may also contain permitted colouring matter and permitted preservatives.

4.2 Requirements of the finished product

4.2.1 Synthetic syrups shall be clear, transparent, of a uniform colour and shall possess a pleasant taste and flavour truly characteristic of the flavouring material used.

4.2.2 Synthetic syrups shall be free from scum, residue or suspended particles, extraneous matter and objectionable taste. There shall be no crystallization of sugar.

4.2.3 The total soluble solids content in synthetic syrups shall be not less than 65 % by weight.

4.2.4 The acidity of synthetic syrup shall be in a range of 1.25 – 1.5 %.

4.2.5 Microbiological limits

Synthetic syrups shall comply with limits for micro-organisms specified in **Table 1**.

Table 1 – Microbiological limits for synthetic syrups

1	2	3	4
S/N	Characteristic	Limit (cfu)	Test methods
1	Total aerobic count, per ml, max.	100	ISO 4833-2
2	Total coliforms, per 100 ml	Absent	ISO 4832
3	<i>E. coli</i> , per 100 ml	Absent	ISO 7251
4	Yeast and mould count, per ml, max.	10	ISO 21527-1
5	<i>Salmonella spp.</i> per 25 ml	Absent	ISO 6579

5 FOOD ADDITIVES

Only those food additives listed under this product in MS 237, may be used and only within the limits specified.

6 CONTAMINANTS

6.1 Heavy metals

The products covered by this draft standard shall comply with the maximum levels of heavy metals and toxic substances prescribed in MS 302.

6.2 Pesticide residues

All the raw materials used in the production of synthetic syrups shall comply with the maximum residue limits for pesticides as established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

7 HYGIENE

The product covered by the provisions of this draft standard shall be prepared and handled in accordance with the requirements set out in MS 21.

8 PACKAGING AND LABELLING

8.1 Packaging

Synthetic syrups shall be packaged in suitable food grade containers. Synthetic syrups shall be packaged for bulk delivery and storage in containers that shall prevent contamination of the product and preserve its safety and quality.

8.2 Labelling

In addition to the requirements of MS 19, the following specific provisions shall apply:

- a)** The name of the product shall be declared. The container of synthetic syrups will not bear any label which will lead the consumer into believing that it is genuine fruit product. In addition, the label will have the word 'SYNTHETIC' or 'FLAVOURED' distinctly and clearly displayed on it;
- b)** Name, physical location and address of the manufacturer, packager, distributor, importer, exporter or vendor of the product, whichever may apply, shall be declared;
- c)** Best before date;
- d)** Net weight of the contents in volume;
- e)** List of ingredients in descending order of proportion by mass;
- f)** Date of manufacture;
- g)** Batch identification number/code; and
- h)** Country of origin.

9 SAMPLING AND METHODS OF TEST

Sampling and testing of beer shall be done in accordance with the procedures stipulated in MS 23.

THE MALAWI BUREAU OF STANDARDS

The Malawi Bureau of Standards is the standardizing body in Malawi under the aegis of the Ministry of Trade and Industry. Set up in 1972 by the Malawi Bureau of Standards Act (Cap: 51:02), the Bureau is a parastatal body whose activities aim at formulating and promoting the general adoption of standards relating to structures, commodities, materials, practices, operations and from time to time revise, alter and amend the same to incorporate advanced technology.

CERTIFICATION MARK SCHEME

To bring the advantages of standardization within the reach of the common consumer, the Bureau operates a Certification Mark Scheme. Under this scheme, manufacturers who produce goods that conform to national standards are granted permits to use the Bureau's "Mark of Quality" depicted below on their products. This Mark gives confidence to the consumer of the commodity's reliability.

