



DEAS 109:2013
ICS 67.160.20

DRAFT EAST AFRICAN STANDARD

Potable spirit — Specification

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

DEAS 109:2013

Foreword

Development of the East African Standards has been necessitated by the need for harmonizing requirements governing quality of products and services in the East African Community. It is envisaged that through harmonized standardization, trade barriers that are encountered when goods and services are exchanged within the Community will be removed.

In order to achieve this objective, the Community established an East African Standards Committee mandated to develop and issue East African Standards.

The Committee is composed of representatives of the National Standards Bodies in Partner States, together with the representatives from the private sectors and consumer organizations. Draft East African Standards are circulated to stakeholders through the National Standards Bodies in the Partner States. The comments received are discussed and incorporated before finalization of standards, in accordance with the procedures of the Community.

East African Standards are subject to review, to keep pace with technological advances. Users of the East African Standards are therefore expected to ensure that they always have the latest versions of the standards they are implementing.

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Introduction

Spirits are alcoholic beverages consumed by relatively many people in Africa and hence their effects on people in terms of health, social status and income is remarkable.

The demand for spirits in the country is increasing as a result of social climbing and population increase. As a result the nation has to spend some money to import some of the spirits or their raw materials for the locally made spirits.

In order to ensure that spirits that are manufactured locally or imported are safe and of good quality the preparation of this East African Standard was found necessary.

In the preparation of this standard considerable assistance was derived from ES 8M 3 -250 -1974 Spirits – Specification published by the Ethiopian Standards Institution.

Potable spirit — Specification

1 Scope

This East African Standard specifies requirements and 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

EAS 123, *Water – Distilled quality – Specification*

EAS 39, *Hygiene in the food and drink manufacturing industry – Code of practice*

EAS 103, *Schedule for permitted food additives*

EAS 104, *Alcoholic beverages – Method of sampling and test*

EAS 124, *Rounding off numerical values.*

3 Terms and definitions

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

3.1

potable spirit

is an ethyl alcohol product obtained by distilling fermented carbohydrate material or mixing neutral spirit with water in proportion suitable for human consumption.

3.2

ethanol

alcohol (ethyl alcohol), having the chemical formula C_2H_5OH .

3.3

liquor

distilled potable alcohol as distinguished from fermented beverages such as wine

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3.4

neutral spirit

A distillate obtained from fermented carbohydrate material, purified by fractional distillation with complete removal of fusel oil and furfural 4 Requirements

4.2 Ethyl alcohol content

The ethyl alcohol content in potable spirits shall be between 35 % and 45.0 % by volume at 20°C when determined according to the method prescribed in EAS 104 *Alcoholic beverages – Method of sampling and test* (see Clause 2).

4.3 Permitted food additives

Potable spirits may contain food additives which are prescribed in EAS 103, *Schedule for permitted food additives* (see Clause 2).

Potable spirits may be flavoured with fruit or other botanical substances that are intended to impart the characteristic taste and aroma associated with the product. Such additions should not be injurious to health.

4.4 Taste and aroma

The potable spirit shall possess the characteristic taste and aroma associated with the product.

4.5 Hygienic conditions

Potable spirits shall be manufactured in premises built and maintained under hygienic conditions. The handling equipment like tanks, bottling machines and packing equipment shall be clean. In all cases EAS 39: *Hygiene in the food and drink manufacturing industry – Code of practice* (see Clause 2) shall apply.

4.6 Chemical requirements

When tested the chemical characteristics of potable spirits shall conform to the requirements specified in Table 1.

Table 1 – Chemical requirements for potable spirits

Characteristics	Requirements	Method of test EAS 104 (see Clause 2) Clause numbers
Alcohol percent by volume	35 - 45	5
Specific gravity	0.9592 - 0.9199 (align to adjusted alcohol)	6
Acidity, as acetic acid, mg/L absolute alcohol, max	12	10

Aldehydes (as acetaldehyde), mg/ L, max	5	12
Furfural,	To pass the test	
Methanol content, mg/L, max	50	14
Fusel oil	To pass the test	
Ash, percent by mass	0.001 - 0.041	17

4.7 Organoleptic requirements

Spirits shall comply with the organoleptic requirements shown in Table 2.

Table 2 – Organoleptic requirements for potable spirits

Property	Requirements
appearance	Clear, free of suspension sediments and characteristic colour
Odour	Characteristic odour and free of foreign odour
Taste	Characteristic taste and free of foreign taste.

6 Packing, marking and labelling

6.1 Packaging

Potable spirit shall be packaged in suitable food grade containers. The net volume of the spirit content in the bottle shall be the volume indicated on the container subject to a tolerance of $\pm 1\%$ on individual bottle, measured at room temperature.

6.2 Labeling

Labelling of potable spirit shall be done in accordance with the requirements of EAS 38 and shall include the following in each consumer unit:

- i) common name as 'potable spirit';
- ii) Name, physical location and address of manufacturer;
- iii) Ethyl alcohol content, % by volume;
- iv) List of ingredients in descending order of proportion by mass;

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- v) Net contents in accordance with the weights and measures requirements;
- vi) A declaration by common name of any additives used;
- vii) Date of manufacture, batch identification number/code;
- ix) Country of origin.
- xi) Statutory warnings

7 Sampling and test methods

Sampling and test of potable spirit shall be done in accordance with respective clause of EAS 104 and as specified in relevant clauses

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