



دائرة الثقافة والسياحة
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE
AND TOURISM

06/10/2022

Distribution Companies and Retail Shop Managers

السادة/ مدراء شركات التوزيع ومحلات البيع بالتجزئة المحترمون

Circular No. 17/2022

تعميم رقم 17/2022

Subject: Abu Dhabi Specifications for Alcoholic Beverages

الموضوع: معايير أبوظبي الفنية للمشروبات الكحولية

Greetings,

تحية طيبة وبعد،

Based on Law No. (8) 2018 regarding establishing the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi and its objective to develop and improve quality standards of the tourism industry in Abu Dhabi; Law No.(31) 2019 regarding curating alcoholic beverages; Law No. (13) 2006 regarding monitoring touristic establishments in Abu Dhabi; CEO's decision No.(23) 2018 to extend DCT Abu Dhabi's specialties, Executive Board's decision No. (100) 2020 to organise alcoholic beverages in Abu Dhabi, and DCT Abu Dhabi's decision No.(75) 2020 regarding the implementation of regulations in respect of Law No.(31) 2019 about curating alcoholic beverage activities in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, and regarding Chairman decision No.(104) 2020 regarding the adoption of a guide to policies, requirements and standards to issue the necessary licences for the operations of selling, distributing and serving alcoholic beverages in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. The following was stated:

بناءً على القانون رقم (8) لسنة 2018 بشأن إنشاء دائرة الثقافة والسياحة - أبوظبي وما نص عليه بشأن المهام والاختصاصات لتحقيق التنمية السياحية لإمارة أبوظبي، وبالإشارة إلى القانون رقم (31) لسنة 2019 بشأن تنظيم نشاط المشروبات الكحولية في إمارة أبوظبي، وعلى القانون رقم (13) لسنة 2006 بشأن الرقابة على المنشآت السياحية في إمارة أبوظبي، وعلى قرار رئيس المجلس التنفيذي رقم (23) لسنة 2018 بشأن اختصاصات إضافية لدائرة الثقافة والسياحة، وعلى قرار المجلس التنفيذي رقم (100) لسنة 2020 بشأن تنظيم المشروبات الكحولية في إمارة أبوظبي، وعلى قرار دائرة الثقافة والسياحة رقم (75) لسنة 2020 بشأن اللائحة التنفيذية للقانون رقم (31) لسنة 2019 بشأن تنظيم نشاط المشروبات الكحولية في إمارة أبوظبي. وبالإشارة إلى قرار رئيس دائرة الثقافة والسياحة رقم (104) لسنة 2020 بشأن اعتماد دليل السياسات والاشتراطات والمعايير لإصدار التراخيص اللازمة لعمليات بيع وتوزيع وتقديم المشروبات الكحولية في إمارة أبوظبي.

In line with the directives of the concerned authorities issued in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi with regard to regulating the licensing of alcoholic beverages in the Emirate, and in an effort to set technical controls and specifications in line with international regulations to ensure the safety and security of the sector, both for consumers and suppliers, please note that the technical specifications guide for alcoholic beverages in the Emirate has been approved in cooperation with the Abu Dhabi Council for Quality and Conformity, which all suppliers of the sector will have to abide by and take into account, regarding the conformity of their products to its provisions.

وتماسياً مع توجيهات الجهات المعنية الصادرة في إمارة أبوظبي فيما يتعلق بتنظيم ترخيص المشروبات الكحولية في الإمارة وسعيًا لوضع ضوابط ومواصفات فنية مواكبة للأنظمة العالمية في هذا المجال لضمان أمن وسلامة القطاع من مستهلكين ومن مزودين، يرجى العلم بأنه تم اعتماد دليل المواصفات الفنية للمشروبات الكحولية في الإمارة بالتعاون مع مجلس أبوظبي للجودة والمطابقة والذي سيتوجب على جميع مزودي القطاع الالتزام به ومراعاته ومطابقة منتجاتهم مع بنوده.

Also, all companies working in this field will be given a period of six months from the date of this circular, to start making adjustments up until the date of implementation is approved.

كما سيتم منح جميع الشركات العاملة في هذا المجال مهلة زمنية مدتها ستة أشهر من تاريخه للبدء في تعديل الأوضاع إلى حين اعتماد تاريخ البدء بالتطبيق.



دائرة الثقافة والسياحة
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE
AND TOURISM

We are attaching a copy of the afore mentioned specifications for your consideration and action as applicable. نرفق لكم نسخة من المواصفات المذكورة للاطلاع والعمل على إجراء اللازم لذلك.

We shall keep you updated on implementation mechanisms based on coordination with other concerned entities. وسيتم لاحقاً إعلامكم بأية مستجدات عن آلية التطبيق بناءً على ما سيتم اعتماده بالتنسيق مع الجهات المعنية ذات الصلة.

We hope that you will abide by what we have mentioned to avoid any legal measures that will be taken against offenders according to the legislation in force. أملين منكم التقيد بما أشرنا إليه تفادياً للإجراءات القانونية التي ستتخذ بشأن المخالفين وفق التشريعات النافذة.

Kind Regards.

وتفضلوا بقبول فائق الاحترام والتقدير.

The Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi

دائرة الثقافة والسياحة - أبوظبي



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Abu Dhabi Specification

معايير أبوظبي الفنية



ABU DHABI SPECIFICATIONS

ADS30 / 2022

م أف 2022 / 30

First Edition

الاصدار الأول

**Abu Dhabi Specification for
Alcoholic Beverages**

**معايير أبوظبي الفنية للمشروبات
الكحولية**



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1. Amendment Page

To ensure that each copy of such technical documents (Abu Dhabi Specifications) contains a full record of amendment, the amendment page is updated and issued with each set of revised/new documents. This Document is editable and modifiable where necessary. The Abu Dhabi Quality & Conformity Council takes the necessary action to make such page available for all, collects all comments once received, and arranges for the working group meeting (Specification for Alcoholic Beverages) to discuss the received comments about the Document for updating and modification purposes.

Edition Number	Year of Approval	Number of pages	Sections Changes	Notes
1	2022	10	-	-



2. About the Abu Dhabi Quality and Conformity Council

Abu Dhabi Quality and Conformity Council (QCC) is an Abu Dhabi government entity established in accordance with Local Law No. (3) of 2009 to raise the quality of Abu Dhabi's exports and products traded locally. QCC consists of a council of regulators and industry with a mandate to ensure provision of quality infrastructure in line with global standards.

- o QCC's functions are divided into six key areas:
 - Developing standards and specifications
 - Capacity building of metrology systems
 - Strengthening testing infrastructure
 - Launching conformity schemes
 - Protecting consumer interests
 - Ensuring fair trade
- o QCC's key stakeholders include regulatory authorities, consumers, retailers and wholesalers, industry, conformity assessment bodies (CABs) and importers.

QCC supports regulators and government organizations through offering quality and conformity facilities, expertise and resources that allow them to implement products safety and compliance requirements and regulations. Additionally, QCC works towards promoting a culture of quality and protecting the interests of consumers. In doing this, QCC seeks to promote the Emirate's competitiveness to become one of the world's most attractive regions for investments and human capital, and to support the competitiveness of national industries in world markets

3. Acknowledgement

QCC would like to thank the members of the Working Group listed below.

S.#	Name	Entity
1	Amina Al Besheri (Chairman)	Department of Culture and Tourism (DCT)
2	Suhail Al Harbi	Department of Culture and Tourism (DCT)
3	Mohammad Alshehhi	Department of Culture and Tourism (DCT)
4	Mohamed Ibrahim Bumajeed	Department of Culture and Tourism (DCT)
5	Nouran Amer	Department of Culture and Tourism (DCT)
6	Yousef Alhamadi	Department of Economic Development (DED)
7	Mohamad Alyaaqoubi	Department of Culture and Tourism (DCT)
8	Amal Al Hashmi	Department of Culture and Tourism (DCT)
9	Sai Manohar	Gray Mackenzie and partners
10	Timothy Broughton	peninsula Drinks and food
11	Sacha Tanner	spinneys liquor
12	Stuart Simpson	African and Eastern
13	Alex Bracken	O P M facilities Management Sole Proprietorship LLC
14	Sanjay Ravindranathan	High spirits
15	Samb Bouhnassa	Eurostar Cellar
16	Elias Kanaan	Side Hussle Brewery
17	Ian West	ABW Global
18	Dr. Simon Miller	Abu Dhabi Quality and Conformity Council (QCC)
19	Dr. Abdullah Siddiqui	Abu Dhabi Quality and Conformity Council (QCC)

4. Working Group

The working group at the Abu Dhabi Quality and Conformity Council was set up in July 2022 as mandated by the Executive Council in this regard, in coordination with the Department of Culture and Tourism. The aim of doing that is to prepare Abu Dhabi Parameters for Alcoholic Beverages with the participation of representatives of the companies importing and exporting of such products.

5. Purpose

To provide parameters for alcoholic beverages in order to enable the appropriate regulatory authorities to exercise control over circulation of such products in the emirate of Abu Dhabi with the aim of securing the required level of safety and quality of these products.

6. Scope

These parameters are related to the requirements that must be met by all types of imported or locally manufactured alcoholic beverages as defined by the Unified Customs Tariff for GCC States Chapter 22 headings

- 22.03, Beer made from malt
- 22.04, Wine of fresh grapes, including fortified wines; grape must other than that of heading 20.09
- 22.05, Vermouth and other wine of fresh grapes flavoured with plants or aromatic substances

- 22.06 Other fermented beverages (for example, cider, perry, mead, sake); mixtures of fermented beverages and mixtures of fermented beverages and non-alcoholic beverages, not elsewhere specified or included and
- 22.08 Spirits, liqueurs and other spirituous beverages

7-Terms & Definitions

Definition		Terminology
7.1	Alcoholic Strength	Alcohol by volume (ABV) in 100 ml of the beverage at a temperature of 20 ° C.
7.2	The Label	Any label, clarification, mark, brand, image or any other descriptive data that is in writing, in print, engraved or embossed on the food item package in a manner that does not allow it to be separated or removed from the package (including the labels attached in a way that does not prejudice the consumer's interest as deemed appropriate by the competent authority.
7.3	Beer made from malt	It is the liquid alcoholic product obtained from alcoholic fermentation of malt extract that is prepared in whole or in part from grains or sugary raw materials by brewer's yeast with hops plant or extracts thereof.
7.4	Wine of fresh grapes, including fortified Wines, grape must	An alcoholic beverage produced by alcoholic fermentation of whole ripe grapes or its juice.
7.5	Vermouth and other wines of fresh grapes flavoured with plants or aromatic substances	An alcoholic beverage produced by alcoholic fermentation of whole ripe grapes or its juice to which flavours, herbal extracts or bitter items are added and its alcoholic strength is raised by adding pure alcohol



		including but not limited to; vermouth, marsala, port, and madeira.
7.6	Other fermented beverages obtained from the fermentation of fruit and vegetables	Beverages including, but not limited to; cider, perry, Mead, sake, dry raisin fermented drink, peach fermented drink, mixtures of fermented beverages and mixtures of fermented beverages and non-alcoholic beverages.
7.7	Spirits, liqueurs and other spirituous beverages	Any alcoholic beverage obtained by fermentation and distillation, mixed with water and/or other substances in solution, including, but not limited to; spirits obtained by pure ethyl alcohol with the special natural extracts, distilling grape wine or grape marc, whisky, rum and other spirits obtained by distilling the products of fermentation including, but not limited to; Gin and Geneva, Vodka, Liqueurs and cordials, brandy, etc.

8- General Requirements for all alcoholic beverages

The following general requirements must be met by all types of alcoholic beverage products as mentioned in Section 6 Scope:

8-1 The ethyl alcohol and distillates used in the production of alcoholic beverages shall be exclusively of agricultural origin and shall not contain alcohol of synthetic origin or other alcohol of non-agricultural origin.

8-2 The product must be prepared and handled in accordance with suitable sanitary conditions in a manner that maintains the integrity and quality of the product.

8-3 Pesticide residues in the final product must not exceed the permissible maximum residue limits for foods as defined by the Codex Alimentarius Commission or other international references.

8-4 The product must be free of pathogenic microorganisms as well as their secretions in quantities that may be harmful to consumer health.

8-5 The product shall be free from methanol and other toxic alcohols.

8-6 The minimum alcoholic strength shall be 0.5%.



9- Additional requirements for specific alcoholic beverage types

9-1 Wine

9-1-1 Shall be free from vinegar smell and taste.

9-1-2 The maximum concentration of total sulfur dioxide shall not exceed 400 mg/l.

9-1-3 The maximum concentration of heavy metals shall not exceed 0.2 mg/L for arsenic and lead and 0.01 mg/L for cadmium.

9-1-4 Shall be free from artificial colorants.

9-1-5 The maximum volatile acidity, calculated as acetic acid, shall be 1.5 g/l after sulfur dioxide is excluded.

9.2 Beer

9-2-1 The concentration of mineral pollutants in beer must not exceed the following limits: 0.1 mg/L for arsenic, 0.2 mg/L for copper, 0.02 mg/L for lead, 0.2 mg/L for iron, and 250 mg/L for tin.

9-2-2 The concentration of diacetyl shall not exceed 0.2 mg/L.

9-2-3 Shall be free from artificial sweeteners, flavors and colorants, except for caramel.

10- Production, Packaging, Transport and Storage

The following requirements shall be met when packing, transporting and storing alcoholic beverages:

10-1 The product shall be produced as per the U.A.E/GSO 1694: General Principles of Food Hygiene.

10-2 The alcoholic beverages shall be packed in clean, sound and appropriate containers that protect it from pollution and damage and preserve its natural characteristics. Packaging materials used shall be in conformity with the requirements laid out in the relevant UAE specifications.

10-3 Transport and handling shall be adequately protected from rain, sunlight or other sources of excessive heat, unwanted odors and other sources of pollution.

10-4 Alcoholic beverages shall be stored in dry, well-ventilated rooms at temperatures between 21-23 °C, free from undesirable odors and protected against insects and rodents.

11- Labeling

The labeling shall be indicated in Arabic and/or English in addition to any other language to include:

11-1 The product name.



11-2 The country of origin.

11-3 In the case of a fermented fruit drink, the type of fermented fruit must be indicated, except for wine made from grapes. The name “wine” is not allowed unless it is made from grapes only.

11-4 The period of maturation or ageing, if stated, where it refers to the youngest alcoholic component of the drink.

11-5 Name, address and trademark of the manufacturer, supplier or importer (if any)

11-6 Percentage of alcohol by volume or alcoholic strength

11-7 Net volume of contents. The actual volume of contents shall not exceed $\pm 3\%$ of the volume stated on the product label.

11-8 Shelf life according to the approved standard specifications.

12-References

- 12-1 Jordanian Standard No. 1408/2016 for alcoholic beverages
- 12-2 EU Regulation 787/2019 on the definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of geographical indications of spirit drinks.
- 12-3 Commission Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006 on setting maximum levels for certain contaminants in foodstuffs.
- 12-4 Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code-Standard 1.4.1 Contaminants and Natural Toxicants.
- 12-5 U.A.E/GSO 1694:2005 General Principles of Food Hygiene.
- 12-6 UAE.S 9:2019 Labeling of Prepackaged Food Stuffs.
- 12-7 The unified table for the classification and classification of goods for the Gulf Cooperation Council countries according to the Harmonized System version (2022) and its updates.
- 12-8 EU Regulation No 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers.