

BS 8636:2023



BSI Standards Publication

Whisky – Use of analytical parameters and methods of analysis – Specification

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Published by BSI Standards Limited 2023

ISBN 978 0 539 18342 9

ICS 67.160.10; 67.240

The following BSI references relate to the work on this document:

Committee reference AW/13

Draft for comment 23/30440107 DC

Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

Date

Text affected

Contents

	Page
Foreword	II
Introduction	1
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Production process	2
5 Methods of analysis	2
5.1 General	2
5.2 Alcohol strength	2
5.3 Acidity	3
5.4 Higher alcohols	4
5.5 Esters	4
5.6 Aldehydes	4
5.7 Methanol	5
5.8 Furfural	5
5.9 Dry extract	5
5.10 Metals	6
5.11 NDMA (N-nitrosodimethylamine)	6
5.12 Ethyl carbamate	6
5.13 Maturation related congeners	6
6 Water/caramel quality	6
6.1 General	6
6.2 Water specification	6
<i>Table 1 — Criteria for microbiology</i>	7
6.3 Caramel specification	7
<i>Table 2 — Criteria for caramel</i>	7
7 Organoleptic characteristics	7
7.1 Sensory	7
<i>Figure 1 — Flavour wheel</i>	9
7.2 Testing the compliance of organoleptic characteristics	9
8 Chill haze	10
9 Calcium oxalate	11
10 Allergens, DNA and protein	11
11 Vegan/vegetarian status of whisky	11
12 Genetically modified organisms	12
Annex A (informative) Glossary	13
Annex B (informative) Geographical Indication status	14
Annex C (informative) Analytes of interest	14
<i>Table C.1 — Process analytes</i>	15
<i>Table C.2 — Process contaminants</i>	16
Annex D (informative) Generic and brand authenticity	16
<i>Table D.1 — Analytes and parameters</i>	16
Bibliography	19

Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages I to IV, pages 1 to 19, an inside back cover and a back cover.

Foreword

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This British Standard is published by BSI Standards Limited, under licence from The British Standards Institution, and came into effect on 30 September 2023. It was prepared by Technical Committee AW/13, *Whisky*. A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to the committee manager.

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The provisions of this document are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its requirements are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is “shall”.

Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.

Requirements in this document are drafted in accordance with the *Rules for the structure and drafting of UK standards:2022*, subclause **G.1.1**, which states, “Requirements should be expressed using wording such as: ‘When tested as described in Annex A, the product shall ...’”. This means that only those products that are capable of passing the specified test will be deemed to conform to this document.

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Introduction

Traditional whiskies have formed consumers' expectations and understanding of what is meant by the term "whisky". It is these whiskies which have been traded internationally. Today, as a result, consumers in different markets expect whisky to be made from cereals, distilled in a certain way, aged for a minimum period in wooden casks, and sold at a strength not less than 40% alc. vol. This ensures whisky retains the colour, aroma and taste derived from its raw materials and production process.

This standard sets out the requirements which are consistent with that reputation. In particular, it provides a definition of the production process for whisky, the methods of analysis and the main categories of whisky traded globally.

1 Scope

This British Standard specifies the analytical parameters and methods of analysis used for whisky production.

NOTE The parameters and methods provided in this British Standard establish authenticity and consistency with the production process for whisky, the expected organoleptic characteristics, the typical ranges for analytes of interest and other technical matters.

This British Standard is applicable to UK distillers as well as new entrants to the industry and regulators.

This British Standard does not include operational methods/issues.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes provisions of this document¹⁾. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

[BS ISO 6658](#), *Sensory analysis – Methodology – General guidance*

3 Terms and definitions

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

3.1 whisky

cereal-based matured spirit drink defined by its production process

NOTE 1 Whisky consists of a number of categories with their own, more specific, definitions (see the glossary in [Annex A](#)). See also [4.1](#), which specifies the production process.

NOTE 2 This British Standard covers whisky irrespective of the spelling (both whisky or whiskey can be considered).

¹⁾ Documents that are referred to solely in an informative manner are listed in the Bibliography.