

**NATIONAL AGENCY FOR FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND CONTROL (NAFDAC)**

SPIRIT DRINKS REGULATIONS 2018

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Commencement:

In exercise of the powers conferred on the Governing Council of the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) by sections 5 and 30 of the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control Act Cap NI Laws of the Federation of Nigeria (LFN) 2004 and all powers enabling it in that behalf, the Governing Council of the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control with the approval of the Honourable Minister of Health hereby makes the following Regulations:-

1. **Scope**
2. These Regulations shall apply to all spirit drinks, manufactured, imported, exported, distributed, advertised, sold or used in Nigeria.
3. It shall also apply to the use of ethyl alcohol and distillates of agricultural origin in the production of alcoholic beverages and to the use of the names of spirit drinks in the presentation and labelling of foodstuffs.
4. **Prohibition**
5. No person shall manufacture, import, export, advertise, sell, distribute or use spirit drink specified in Schedule I to these Regulations in Nigeria unless it has been registered in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations.
6. No person shall sell any spirit drink unless the principal display panel of the label carries a declaration of the actual percentage by volume of absolute alcohol contained therein.

3. Use and limit.

The use and limits of food additives or food colours in the manufacture of spirit drinks shall be as prescribed by the Agency.

1. Restriction on sale of alcoholic Spirit
2. Any whisky with an alcoholic strength by volume of less than 40% and any brandy, gin, rum or vodka with an alcoholic strength by volume below 37.0% shall be marked “under strength” except brandy if the strength has fallen below 37% by reason of making in a cask.
3. Spirit drinks shall not contain caffeine and other substances which when mixed with it could be injurious to health.
4. Labelling Information

In addition to compliance with the Pre-packaged Food (Labelling) Regulations, 2018, the following shall apply:—

1. the name of the spirit drink shall be presented in a manner as to protect the geographical indications and geographical designation of the spirit drink;
2. the packaging of spirit drinks in pet bottles, sachet, foils shall not be permitted in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations;
3. the “18+” age restrictions shall be prominently displayed on the product label;
4. not suitable for pregnant women;
5. health claims shall not be made on spirit drinks.
6. Advertisement of Spirit Drinks

In addition to compliance with the Food Products (Advertisement) Regulations, 2018 the following shall apply:-

* 1. the content of advertisements of spirit drink shall not be misleading and shall be free of health claims;
  2. advertisements of spirit drink in any media shall not be permitted in children’s programmes nor shall children, sportsmen or expectant mothers be used as models; and
  3. gift items promoting spirit drinks shall not be directed at children and sportsmen.
  4. the “18+” age restrictions shall be prominently displayed on the advert materials.

1. Specifications for Spirit Drinks

Spirit drinks shall conform to the specifications provided in Schedule II - V of these Regulations.

1. Penalty
   1. A person who contravenes any of the provisions of these Regulations shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction, in case of -
   2. an individual to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to a fine of N50,000.00 or both imprisonment and fine;
   3. a body corporate, to a fine not exceeding N100, 000.
2. Where an offence under these regulations is committed by a body corporate, firm or other association of other individuals, every:-
   1. director, manager, secretary, or other similar officer of the body corporate; or
   2. partner or officer of the firm; or
   3. trustee of the body concerned; or
   4. person concerned in the management of the affairs of the association; or
   5. person who was purporting to act in a capacity referred to in this regulation, is severally guilty of that offence and liable to be proceeded against and punished for that offence in the same manner as if he had himself committed the offence, unless he proves that the act or omission constituting the offence took place without his knowledge, consent or connivance.
3. Forfeiture

In addition to the Penalty specified in Regulations 8 of these Regulations, a person convicted of an offence under these regulations shall forfeit to the agency the spirit drink products and whatsoever is used in connection with the commission of the offence.

1. Interpretation

In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. “Agency” means the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control;
2. “Alcohol of agricultural origin” means alcohol obtained from fermentation of agricultural products;
3. “Blended spirit” means spirit obtained from alcohol of agricultural origin and permitted additives with or without sugar(s); and
4. “Blending” means combining two or more spirit drinks of the same category, distinguished only by minor differences in composition due to one or more of the following factors:  
   - the method of preparation;  
   - the stills employed;  
   - the period of maturation or ageing;  
   - the geographical area of production.

1. **Maturation or ageing**Maturation or ageing means allowing certain reactions to develop naturally in appropriate containers, thereby giving the spirit drink in question organoleptic qualities previously absent.
2. “Spirit drink” means an alcoholic beverage:
3. intended for human consumption;
4. having particular organoleptic properties peculiar to that class of drinks;
5. which contains a minimum alcoholic strength of 15% vol; and
6. shall be produced by one of the following methods -
   1. directly by distillation, with or without added flavouring from naturally fermented products, or
   2. by the maceration of vegetable substances, or
   3. the addition of flavourings, sugars or other sweetening products or other agricultural products or a combination of two or more of the above to ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin, or
   4. by the mixture of a spirit drink with one or more other spirit drinks or ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin or distillates of agricultural origin or other alcoholic beverages and drinks;
   5. by blending potable ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin with spirit concentrates, natural flavourings, permitted food colours, sugars or permitted sweetening agents.
   6. “Geographical indication” shall be an indication which identifies a spirit drink as originating in the territory of a country, or a region or locality in that territory, where a given quality, reputation or other characteristic of that spirit drink is essentially attributable to its geographical origin.
7. Repeal of 2005 Regulations
   1. The Spirit Drink Regulations 2005 is hereby repealed.
   2. The repeal of these Regulations Specified in Regulation 11 (1) of these Regulations shall not affect anything done or purported to be done under the repealed Regulations
8. Citation.

These Regulations shall be cited as Spirit Drink Regulations 2018

SCHEDULE I

CATEGORIES OF SPIRIT DRINKS

* + 1. Whisky

Whisky shall –

1. be a potable alcoholic distillate obtained from a mash of cereal grain products;
2. be saccharified by the diastase of the malt contained there with or without other natural enzymes;
3. be fermented by the action of yeast and matured for a period,
4. contain not less than 37.0 percent of absolute alcohol by volume.
   * 1. Claim with respect to nature of Whisky

No person shall make any claim with respect to the age of whisky other than for the period which the whisky was stored.

* + 1. Malt Whisky

Malt whisky shall be the whisky obtained by distillation of a mash consisting of cereal malt fermented by the action of yeast or a mixture of such distillate and ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin.

* + 1. Scotch Whisky

Scotch whisky shall be whisky distilled and matured in Scotland qualifying in accordance with the

laws applicable thereto in Scotland.

* + 1. Irish Whisky

Irish whisky shall be whisky distilled in Northern Ireland or in the Republic of Ireland as Irish

Whisky for domestic consumption in accordance with the laws applicable thereto in Northern

Ireland or in the Republic of Ireland.

1. Canadian Whisky/Rye Whisky
   1. Canadian whisky, Canadian rye whisky or rye whisky shall be whisky distilled in Canada as Canadian whisky for domestic consumption in accordance with the laws applicable thereto in Canada.
   2. it shall contain not less than 40 percent alcohol by volume
2. Highland Whisky
   * 1. Highland Whisky shall be a potable alcoholic beverage blended in Canada from not less than 25 per cent malt whisky calculated on an absolute alcohol basis, distilled in Canada or Scotland.
     2. Where it contains 51 per cent or more malt whisky distilled in Scotland, it shall be labelled or advertised as containing Malt Whisky distilled in Scotland.
3. Blended whisky.

Blended whisky shall be ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin to which permitted whisky flavours have been added.

1. Rum.

Rum shall –

1. be a potable alcoholic distillate obtained exclusively from sugar-cane products;
2. be fermented by the action of yeast or a mixture of yeast and other organisms; or
3. be a mixture of such distillate which has been aged;
4. have the aromatic characteristics specified to rum and may contain caramel, may be
5. flavoured with fruit or any other approved botanical substances/flavourings; and
6. contain not less than 37.0 percent of absolute alcohol by volume.
7. Blended Rum.

Blended rum shall be ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin to which permitted rum flavours have been added.

1. Gin.

Gin is the product of the blending of ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin with natural or nature identical flavouring substances.

1. Hollands Gin, Geneva Gin, Genever Gin or Dutch-type Gin  
   1. shall be a potable alcoholic beverage obtained by the redistillation of;   
   (i)  malt spirit with or over juniper berries, or by a mixture of the products of more than one such redistillation,   
   (ii)  a combination of malt spirit and not more than four times its volume on an absolute alcohol basis of grain spirit with or over juniper berries, or by a mixture of the products of more than one such redistillation,   
    2. shall not contain more than 2 per cent sweetening agent;
2. Distilled Gin.
   1. Distilled gin shall be the product obtained by the redistillation of suitable grain, molasses spirit, other carbohydrate with or over juniper berries:
3. may contain other approved aromatic botanical substances; or
4. sugar or flavourings; or a mixture of such distillate and ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin, and
5. shall contain not less than 37.0 percent of absolute alcohol by volume.

* 1. Gin obtained by simply adding essences or flavourings to ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin shall not qualify for the description “distilled gin”

1. Dry Gin

Dry Gin shall be Gin to which no sugar has been added.

1. Brandy.
2. Brandy shall be potable alcoholic distillate of wine, in the manufacture of which no additional sugar has been used and held for a period in wooden cask and -
   * 1. may contain caramel;
     2. may be flavoured with fruit, other approved botanical substances, flavouring, or a mixture of such distillate and ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin and shall contain not less than 37.0 percent of absolute alcohol by volume.
3. **Claims with respect to age of brandy**

No person shall make any claim with respect to the age of brandy other than for the period during which the brandy has been held in wooden containers or in small wood.

1. Cognac Brandy.

Cognac Brandy or Cognac shall be brandy manufactured in the Cognac district of France for domestic consumption in accordance with the laws applicable in France.

1. Armagnac Brandy.

Armagnac brandy or Armagnac shall be brandy manufactured in the Armagnac district of France for domestic consumption in accordance with the laws applicable in France.

1. **Dried Fruit Brandy**shall be a potable alcoholic distillate, or a mixture of potable alcoholic distillates, obtained from sound dried fruit.
2. Fruit Brandy
3. shall be a potable alcoholic distillate, or a mixture of potable alcoholic distillates, obtained by the distillation of fruit wine or a mixture of fruit wines, or a fermented mash of sound ripe fruit other than grapes, or a mixture of sound ripe fruits other than grapes.
4. may be described on its label as “(naming the fruit) brandy” if all of the fruit or fruit wine used to make the brandy originates from the named fruit.
5. **Grappa**shall be a potable alcoholic distillate, or a mixture of potable alcoholic distillates, obtained by the distillation of the pomace from sound ripe grapes after the removal of the juice or wine.
6. **Lees Brandy**
7. shall be a potable alcoholic distillate, or a mixture of potable alcoholic distillates, obtained by the distillation of the lees of wine or fruit wine;
8. may be described on its label as “(naming the fruit) Lees Brandy” if all of the lees used to make the brandy originate from the named fruit.
9. **Blended brandy.**

Blended brandy shall be ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin to which permitted brandy flavours have been added and it may contain caramel and sugar.

1. Liqueur and alcoholic Cordial.
   1. Liqueurs and alcoholic cordials shall
      1. be the products obtained by the mixture of distillation of grain spirit, brandy or other distilled spirits, with or without other fruits, flowers, leaves, other approved botanical substances, their juices or with extracts derived by infusion, percolation or maceration of such
      2. have added to it during the course of manufacture, sucrose or dextrose or both in an amount not less than 2.5 percent (minimum s100gm/liter expressed as invert sugar) of the finished product;
      3. contain not less than 15.0 percent of absolute alcohol by volume; and
      4. may contain natural, permitted artificial flavouring preparations or colour, the use and limits of colour which shall be as approved by the Agency and contain other agricultural products such as cream, milk or other milk products.
2. Vodka.
   1. Vodka shall –
      * 1. be the potable alcoholic beverage obtained by the treatment of grain, potato spirit, molasses spirit with activated charcoal, or the rectification of ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin, so as to render the product without distinctive characteristic aroma or taste; and
        2. contain not less than 37.0 percent of absolute alcohol by volume.
3. **Flavoured vodka**Flavoured vodka is vodka which has been given a predominant flavor other than that of the raw materials.
4. The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of flavoured vodka shall be 37.5 %.
5. Flavoured vodka may be sweetened, blended, flavoured, matured or coloured.
6. Flavoured vodka may also be sold under the name of any predominant flavour with the word ‘vodka’.
7. **Pomace** or **Marc**  
   shall be a potable alcoholic distillate, or a mixture of potable alcoholic distillates, obtained by the distillation of the skin and pulp of sound ripe fruit after the removal of the fruit juice, wine or fruit wine;
8. **Tequila is** an alcoholic distillate from a fermented mash derived principally from the Agave Tequilana Weber (‘‘blue’’ variety), with or without additional fermentable substances, distilled in such a manner that the distillate possesses the taste, aroma, and characteristics generally attributed to Tequila.   
   Tequila shall be manufactured in accordance with the laws applicable in Mexico.
9. **Gentian**1. Gentian is a spirit drink produced from a distillate of gentian, itself obtained by the fermentation of gentian roots with or without the addition of ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin.  
   2. The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of gentian shall be 37.5 %.  
   3. Gentian shall not be flavoured.
10. **Juniper-flavoured spirit drinks**  
    (a) Juniper-flavoured spirit drinks are spirit drinks produced by flavouring ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin and/or grain spirit and/or grain distillate with juniper (Juniperus communis L. and/or Juniperus oxicedrus L.) berries.  
    (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of juniper-flavoured spirit drinks shall be 30 %.
11. **Caraway-flavoured spirit drinks**(a) Caraway-flavoured spirit drinks are spirit drinks produced by flavouring ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin with caraway (Carum carvi L.).  
    (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of caraway-flavoured spirit drinks shall be 30 %.
12. **Aniseed-flavoured spirit drinks**  
    (a) Aniseed-flavoured spirit drinks are spirit drinks produced by flavouring ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin with natural extracts of star anise (Illicium verum Hook f.), anise (Pimpinella anisum L.), fennel (Foeniculum vulgare Mill.), or any other plant which contains the same principal aromatic constituent, using one of the following processes or a combination thereof:  
    (i) maceration and/or distillation,  
    (ii) redistillation of the alcohol in the presence of the seeds or other parts of the plants specified above,  
    (iii) addition of natural distilled extracts of aniseed-flavoured plants.  
    (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of aniseed-flavoured spirit drinks shall be 15%.  
    (c) Only natural flavouring substance and flavouring preparations may be used in the preparation of aniseed flavoured spirit drinks.
13. **Pastis**  
    (a) Pastis is an aniseed-flavoured spirit drink which also contains natural extracts of liquorice root (Glycyrrhiza spp.), which implies the presence of the colorants known as ‘chalcones’ as well as glycyrrhizic acid, the minimum and maximum levels of which must be 0.05 and 0.5 grams per liter respectively.  
    (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of pastis shall be 40 %.
14. **Anis**  
    (I) Anis is an aniseed-flavoured spirit drink whose characteristic flavour is derived exclusively from anise (Pimpinella anisum L.) and/or star anise (Illicium verum Hook f.) and/or fennel (Foeniculum vulgare Mill.).

(a) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of anis shall be 35 %.

1. **Distilled anis**(II) Distilled anis is anis which contains alcohol distilled in the presence of the seeds referred to in category 28(a), and in the case of geographical indications mastic and other aromatic seeds, plants or fruits, provided such alcohol constitutes at least 20 % of the alcoholic strength of the distilled anis.  
   (a) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of distilled anis shall be 35 %.
2. **Bitter-tasting spirit drinks or bitters**   
   (a) Bitter-tasting spirit drinks or bitters are spirit drinks with a predominantly bitter taste produced by flavouring ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin with flavouring substances.

(b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of bitter-tasting spirit drinks or bitter shall be 15 %.  
(c) Bitter tasting spirit drinks or bitter may also be sold under the names ‘amer’ or ‘bitter’ with or without another term.

1. **Liqueur**  
   (a) Liqueur is a spirit drink:  
   (i) having a minimum sugar content, expressed as invert sugar, of:

(ii) produced using ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin or a distillate of agricultural origin or one or more spirit drinks or a mixture thereof, which has been sweetened and to which one or more flavourings, products of agricultural origin or foodstuff such as crème, milk or other milk products, fruits, wine or aromatized wine.   
(b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of liqueur shall be 15 %

(c) contain flavouring substances

1. **Crème de (followed by the name of a fruit or the raw material used)**  
   (a) Spirit drinks known as Crème de (followed by the name of a fruit or the raw material used), excluding milk products, are liqueurs with a minimum sugar content of 250 grams per liter expressed as invert sugar.  
   (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of Crème de (followed by the name of a fruit or the raw material used) shall be 15 %.
2. **Crème de cassis**  
   (a) Crème de cassis is a blackcurrant liqueur with a minimum sugar content of 400 grams per liter expressed as invert sugar.  
   (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of crème de cassis shall be 15 %.
3. **Guignolet**  
   (a) Guignolet is a liqueur obtained by maceration of cherries in ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin.  
   (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of guignolet shall be 15 %.
4. **Punch au rhum**   
   (a) Punch au rhum is a liqueur for which the alcohol content is provided exclusively by rum.  
   (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of Punch au rhum shall be 15 %.
5. **Sloe gin**   
   (a) Sloe gin is a liqueur produced by maceration of sloes in gin with the possible addition of sloe juice.  
   (i) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of sloe gin shall be 25 %

(b) Sloe-aromatized spirit drink or Pacharán is a spirit drink which has a predominant sloe taste and is obtained by the maceration of sloes (Prunus spinosa) in ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin, with the addition of natural extracts of anise and/or distillates of anise;  
(i) which has a minimum alcoholic strength by volume of 25%;

1. **Sambuca**  
   (a) Sambuca is a colourless aniseed-flavoured liqueur:  
   (i) containing distillates of anise (Pimpinella anisum L.), star anise (Illicium verum L.) or other aromatic herbs,

(ii) with a minimum sugar content of 350 grams per liter expressed as invert sugar

(b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of sambuca shall be 38 %.

1. **Maraschino, Marrasquino or Maraskino**  
   (a) Maraschino, marrasquino or maraskino is a colourless liqueur the flavour of which is given mainly by a distillate of marasca cherries or of the product obtained by macerating cherries or parts of cherries in alcohol of agricultural origin with a minimum sugar content of 250 grams per liter expressed as invert sugar.  
   (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of maraschino, marrasquino or maraskino shall be 24 %.
2. **Nocino**  
   (i) Nocino is a liqueur the flavour of which is given mainly by maceration and/or distillation of whole green walnuts (Juglans regia L.) with a minimum sugar content of 100 grams per liter expressed as invert sugar.  
   (ii) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of nocino shall be 30 %.
3. **Egg liqueur or Advocaat or Avocat or Advokat**  
   (a) Egg liqueur or advocaat or avocat or advokat is a spirit drink, whether or not flavoured, obtained from ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin, distillate and/or spirit, the ingredients of which are quality egg yolk, egg white and sugar or honey. The minimum sugar or honey content shall be 150 grams per liter expressed as invert sugar. The minimum content of pure egg yolk shall be 140 grams per liter of the final product.  
   (i) the minimum alcoholic strength by volume of egg liqueur or advocaat or avocat or advokat  
   shall be 14 %.
4. **Honey or Mead Nectar**  
   (a) Honey or mead nectar is a spirit drink produced by flavouring the mixture of fermented honey mash and honey distillate and/or ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin, which contains at least 30 % vol. of fermented honey mash.  
   (i) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of honey or mead nectar shall be 22 %.
5. **Flavored Brandy, Flavored Gin, Flavored Rum, Flavored Vodka, and Flavored Whisky.**

‘‘Flavored brandy, ‘‘flavored gin,’’ ‘‘flavored rum,’’ ‘‘flavored vodka,’’ and ‘‘flavored whisky,’’ are brandy, gin, rum vodka, and whisky, respectively, to which have been added natural flavoring materials, with or without the addition of sugar,

The name of the predominant flavor shall appear as a part of the designation. If the finished product contains more than 21⁄2 percent by volume of wine, the kinds and percentages by volume of wine must be stated as a part of the designation, except that a flavored brandy may contain an additional 121⁄2 percent by volume of wine, without label disclosure, if the additional wine is derived from the particular fruit corresponding to the labeled flavor of the product.

SCHEDULE II

CHARACTERISTICS OF ETHANOL OF AGRICULTURAL ORIGIN

1. Organoleptic Characteristics – No detectable taste other than that of raw material.

2. Minimum alcoholic strength by volume 96% vol. (Distilled alcohol).

3. Maximum level of residues shall be -

(a) Total acidity, expressed in milligrams of acetic acid per liter =0.15;

(b) Esters expressed in milligrams of ethyl acetate per liter of alcohol at 100% vol. = 0.13;

(c) Aldehydes expressed in milligrams of acetaldehyde per liter of alcohol at 100% vol. = 0.05;

(d) Higher Alcohols expressed in milligrams of methyl – 2 – propanol – 1 per liter of alcohol at 100% vol. = 0.05;

(e) Methanol expressed in milligrams per liter of alcohol at 100% vol. = 5; and

(f) Volatile bases containing nitrogen expressed in milligrams of nitrogen per liter of alcohol at 100% vol. = 0.01.

(g) furfural: not detectable.

SCHEDULE III

MAXIMUM LEVELS OF ETHYL CARBAMATE

(a) In Wines - 30mg/l

(b) Fortified Wines - 100mg/l

(c) Distilled Spirits - 150mg/l

(d) Fruit Brandies and Liqueur - 400mg/l

SCHEDULE IV

ADDITIVES

(a) Food Colours - As permitted by the Agency

(b) Flavouring Agents - As permitted by the Agency

(c) Sweetening Agents - As permitted by the Agency

(d) Sulphur - 10mg/kg maximum

SCHEDULE V

MAXIMUM LEVELS OF METALLIC CONTAMINANTS PERMITTED

IN SPIRIT DRINKS

(a) Arsenic 0.2mg/kg (As)

(b) Copper 5mg/kg (Cu)

(c) Lead 0.2mg/kg (Pb)

(d) Cadmium 0.1mg/kg (Cd)

(e) Mercury 0.1mg/kg (Hg)

(f) Zinc 5mg/kg (Zn)

(g) Iron 15mg/kg (Fe)

(h) Tin 200mg/kg (Sn

**MADE** at Abuja this day of 2018

**…………………………………………….**

**Inuwa Abdulkadir Esq**

**Chairman Governing Council**

**National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC)**