

ANNEX II

SPIRIT DRINKS

Categories of spirit drinks

1. **Rum**

- (a) Rum is:
- (i) a spirit drink produced exclusively by alcoholic fermentation and distillation, either from molasses or syrup produced in the manufacture of cane sugar or from sugar-cane juice itself and distilled at less than 96 % vol. so that the distillate has the discernible specific organoleptic characteristics of rum, or
 - (ii) a spirit drink produced exclusively by alcoholic fermentation and distillation of sugar-cane juice which has the aromatic characteristics specific to rum and a volatile substances content equal to or exceeding 225 grams per hectolitre of 100 % vol. alcohol. This spirit may be placed on the market with the word 'agricultural' qualifying the sales denomination 'rum' accompanied by any of the geographical indications of the French Overseas Departments and the Autonomous Region of Madeira as registered in Annex III.
- (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of rum shall be 37,5 %.
- (c) No addition of alcohol as defined in Annex I(5), diluted or not, shall take place.
- (d) Rum shall not be flavoured.
- (e) Rum may only contain added caramel as a means to adapt colour.
- (f) The word '*traditionnel*' may supplement any of the geographical indications mentioned in category 1 of Annex III where the rum is produced by distillation at less than 90 % vol., after alcoholic fermentation of alcohol-producing materials originating exclusively in the place of production considered. This rum must have a volatile substances content equal to or exceeding 225 grams per hectolitre of 100 % vol. alcohol and must not be sweetened. The use of the word '*traditionnel*' does not prevent the use of the terms 'from sugar production' or 'agricultural' which may be added to the sales denomination 'rum' and to geographical indications.

This provision shall not affect the use of the word '*traditionnel*' for all products not covered by this provision, according to their own specific criteria.

2. **Whisky or Whiskey**

- (a) *Whisky* or *whiskey* is a spirit drink produced exclusively by:
- (i) distillation of a mash made from malted cereals with or without whole grains of other cereals, which has been:
 - saccharified by the diastase of the malt contained therein, with or without other natural enzymes,
 - fermented by the action of yeast;
 - (ii) one or more distillations at less than 94,8 % vol., so that the distillate has an aroma and taste derived from the raw materials used,
 - (iii) maturation of the final distillate for at least three years in wooden casks not exceeding 700 litres capacity.

Status: Point in time view as at 31/01/2020.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Regulation (EC) No 110/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Categories of spirit drinks. (See end of Document for details)

The final distillate, to which only water and plain caramel (for colouring) may be added, retains its colour, aroma and taste derived from the production process referred to in points (i), (ii) and (iii).

- (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of *whisky* or *whiskey* shall be 40 %.
- (c) No addition of alcohol as defined in Annex I(5), diluted or not, shall take place.
- (d) *Whisky* or *whiskey* shall not be sweetened or flavoured, nor contain any additives other than plain caramel used for colouring.

3. **Grain spirit**

- (a) Grain spirit is a spirit drink produced exclusively by the distillation of a fermented mash of whole grain cereals and having organoleptic characteristics derived from the raw materials used.
- (b) With the exception of '*Korn*', the minimum alcoholic strength by volume of grain spirit shall be 35 %.
- (c) No addition of alcohol as defined in Annex I(5), diluted or not, shall take place.
- (d) Grain spirit shall not be flavoured.
- (e) Grain spirit may only contain added caramel as a means to adapt colour.
- (f) For a grain spirit to bear the sales denomination 'grain brandy', it must have been obtained by distillation at less than 95 % vol. from a fermented mash of whole grain cereals, presenting organoleptic features deriving from the raw materials used.

4. **Wine spirit**

- (a) Wine spirit is a spirit drink:
 - (i) produced exclusively by the distillation at less than 86 % vol. of wine or wine fortified for distillation or by the redistillation of a wine distillate at less than 86 % vol.,
 - (ii) containing a quantity of volatile substances equal to or exceeding 125 grams per hectolitre of 100 % vol. alcohol,
 - (iii) having a maximum methanol content of 200 grams per hectolitre of 100 % vol. alcohol.
- (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of wine spirit shall be 37,5 %.
- (c) No addition of alcohol as defined in Annex I(5), diluted or not, shall take place.
- (d) Wine spirit shall not be flavoured. This shall not exclude traditional production methods.
- (e) Wine spirit may only contain added caramel as a means to adapt colour.
- (f) Where wine spirit has been matured, it may continue to be placed on the market as 'wine spirit' provided it has been matured for as long as, or longer than, the period stipulated for the spirit drink defined under category 5.

5. **Brandy or Weinbrand**

Status: Point in time view as at 31/01/2020.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Regulation (EC) No 110/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Categories of spirit drinks. (See end of Document for details)

- (a) *Brandy* or *Weinbrand* is a spirit drink:
- (i) produced from wine spirit, whether or not wine distillate has been added, distilled at less than 94,8 % vol., provided that that distillate does not exceed a maximum of 50 % of the alcoholic content of the finished product,
 - (ii) matured for at least one year in oak receptacles or for at least six months in oak casks with a capacity of less than 1 000 litres,
 - (iii) containing a quantity of volatile substances equal to or exceeding 125 grams per hectolitre of 100 % vol. alcohol, and derived exclusively from the distillation or redistillation of the raw materials used,
 - (iv) having a maximum methanol content of 200 grams per hectolitre of 100 % vol. alcohol.
- (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of *brandy* or *Weinbrand* shall be 36 %.
- (c) No addition of alcohol as defined in Annex I(5), diluted or not, shall take place.
- (d) *Brandy* or *Weinbrand* shall not be flavoured. This shall not exclude traditional production methods.
- (e) *Brandy* or *Weinbrand* may only contain added caramel as a means to adapt colour.

6. **Grape marc spirit or grape marc**

- (a) Grape marc spirit or grape marc is a spirit drink which meets the following conditions:
- (i) it is produced exclusively from grape marc fermented and distilled either directly by water vapour or after water has been added;
 - (ii) a quantity of lees may be added to the grape marc that does not exceed 25 kg of lees per 100 kg of grape marc used;
 - (iii) the quantity of alcohol derived from the lees shall not exceed 35 % of the total quantity of alcohol in the finished product;
 - (iv) the distillation shall be carried out in the presence of the marc itself at less than 86 % vol.;
 - (v) redistillation at the same alcoholic strength is authorised;
 - (vi) it contains a quantity of volatile substances equal to or exceeding 140 grams per hectolitre of 100 % vol. alcohol and has a maximum methanol content of 1 000 grams per hectolitre of 100 % vol. alcohol.
- (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of grape marc spirit or grape marc shall be 37,5 %.
- (c) No addition of alcohol as defined in Annex I(5), diluted or not, shall take place.
- (d) Grape marc spirit or grape marc shall not be flavoured. This shall not exclude traditional production methods.
- (e) Grape marc spirit or grape marc may only contain added caramel as a means to adapt colour.

7. **Fruit marc spirit**

Status: Point in time view as at 31/01/2020.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Regulation (EC) No 110/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Categories of spirit drinks. (See end of Document for details)

- (a) Fruit marc spirit is a spirit drink which meets the following conditions:
- (i) it is obtained exclusively by fermentation and distillation at less than 86 % vol. of fruit marc except grape marc;
 - (ii) it contains a minimum quantity of volatile substances of 200 grams per hectolitre of 100 % vol. alcohol;
 - (iii) the maximum methanol content shall be 1 500 grams per hectolitre of 100 % vol. alcohol;
 - (iv) the maximum hydrocyanic acid content shall be 7 grams per hectolitre of 100 % vol. alcohol in the case of stone-fruit marc spirit;
 - (v) redistillation at the same alcoholic strength according to (i) is authorised.
- (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of fruit marc spirit shall be 37,5 %.
- (c) No addition of alcohol as defined in Annex I(5), diluted or not, shall take place.
- (d) Fruit marc spirit shall not be flavoured.
- (e) Fruit marc spirit may only contain added caramel as a means to adapt colour.
- (f) The sales denomination shall consist of the name of the fruit followed by ‘marc spirit’. If marcs of several different fruits are used, the sales denomination shall be ‘fruit marc spirit’.

8. **Raisin spirit or *raisin brandy***

- (a) Raisin spirit or *raisin brandy* is a spirit drink produced exclusively by the distillation of the product obtained by the alcoholic fermentation of extract of dried grapes of the ‘Corinth Black’ or Moscatel of the Alexandria varieties, distilled at less than 94,5 % vol., so that the distillate has an aroma and taste derived from the raw material used.
- (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of raisin spirit or *raisin brandy* shall be 37,5 %.
- (c) No addition of alcohol as defined in Annex I(5), diluted or not, shall take place.
- (d) Raisin spirit or *raisin brandy* shall not be flavoured.
- (e) Raisin spirit or *raisin brandy* may only contain added caramel as a means to adapt colour.

9. **Fruit spirit**

- (a) Fruit spirit is a spirit drink:
- (i) produced exclusively by the alcoholic fermentation and distillation of fleshy fruit or must of such fruit, berries or vegetables, with or without stones,
 - (ii) distilled at less than 86 % vol. so that the distillate has an aroma and taste derived from the raw materials distilled,
 - (iii) having a quantity of volatile substances equal to or exceeding 200 grams per hectolitre of 100 % vol. alcohol,
 - (iv) in the case of stone-fruit spirits, having a hydrocyanic acid content not exceeding 7 grams per hectolitre of 100 % vol. alcohol.

Status: Point in time view as at 31/01/2020.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Regulation (EC) No 110/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Categories of spirit drinks. (See end of Document for details)

- (b) The maximum methanol content of fruit spirit shall be 1 000 grams per hectolitre of 100 % vol. alcohol.

However for the following fruit spirits the maximum methanol content shall be:

- (i) 1 200 grams per hectolitre of 100 % vol. alcohol obtained from the following fruits or berries:

- plum (*Prunus domestica* L.),
- mirabelle (*Prunus domestica* L. subsp. *syriaca* (Borkh.) Janch. ex Mansf.),
- quetsch (*Prunus domestica* L.),
- apple (*Malus domestica* Borkh.),
- pear (*Pyrus communis* L.) except for Williams pears (*Pyrus communis* L. cv ‘Williams’),
- raspberries (*Rubus idaeus* L.),
- blackberries (*Rubus fruticosus* auct. aggr.),
- apricots (*Prunus armeniaca* L.),
- peaches (*Prunus persica* (L.) Batsch);

- (ii) 1 350 grams per hectolitre of 100 % vol. alcohol obtained from the following fruits or berries:

- Williams pears (*Pyrus communis* L. cv ‘Williams’),
- redcurrants (*Ribes rubrum* L.),
- blackcurrants (*Ribes nigrum* L.),
- rowanberries (*Sorbus aucuparia* L.),
- elderberries (*Sambucus nigra* L.),
- quinces (*Cydonia oblonga* Mill.),
- juniper berries (*Juniperus communis* L. and/or *Juniperus oxicedrus* L.).

- (c) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of fruit spirit shall be 37,5 %.
- (d) No addition of alcohol as defined in Annex I(5), diluted or not, shall take place.
- (e) Fruit spirit shall not be flavoured.

- (f) ^[F]The sales denomination of a fruit spirit shall be ‘spirit’ preceded by the name of the fruit, berry or vegetable, such as: cherry spirit, which may also be named *kirsch*, plum spirit, which may also be named *slivovitz*, mirabelle, peach, apple, pear, apricot, fig, citrus or grape spirit or other fruit spirits. This sales denomination may be expressed by the name of the fruit completed by a suffix when expressed in the Czech, Croatian, Greek, Polish, Slovakian, Slovenian and Romanian languages.

It may be also called *wasser*, with the name of the fruit.

The name of the fruit may replace ‘spirit’ preceded by the name of the fruit, solely in the case of the following fruits:

- mirabelle (*Prunus domestica* L. subsp. *syriaca* (Borkh.) Janch. ex Mansf.),
- plum (*Prunus domestica* L.),
- quetsch (*Prunus domestica* L.),
- fruit of arbutus (*Arbutus unedo* L.),
- ‘Golden Delicious’ apple.

Status: Point in time view as at 31/01/2020.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Regulation (EC) No 110/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Categories of spirit drinks. (See end of Document for details)

If there is a risk that the final consumer does not easily understand one of those sales denominations not containing the word ‘spirit’, the labelling and presentation shall include the word ‘spirit’, which may be supplemented by an explanation.]

- (g) The name *Williams* may be used only to sell pear spirit produced solely from pears of the ‘Williams’ variety.
- (h) Whenever two or more fruits, berries or vegetables are distilled together, the product shall be sold under the name ‘fruit spirit’ or ‘vegetable spirit’, as appropriate. The name may be supplemented by that of each fruit, berry or vegetable, in decreasing order of quantity used.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Substituted by [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2018/175 of 2 February 2018 amending Annex II to Regulation \(EC\) No 110/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of geographical indications of spirit drinks.](#)

[^{F1}10. **Cider spirit, perry spirit and cider and perry spirit**

- (a) Cider spirit, perry spirit and cider and perry spirit are spirit drinks which meet the following conditions:
 - (i) they are produced exclusively by the distillation at less than 86 % vol. of cider or perry so that the distillate has an aroma and taste derived from the fruits;
 - (ii) they have a quantity of volatile substances equal to or exceeding 200 grams per hectolitre of 100 % vol. alcohol;
 - (iii) they have a maximum methanol content of 1 000 grams per hectolitre of 100 % vol. alcohol.

The condition referred to in point (i) shall not exclude spirit drinks produced by traditional production methods which allow for the distillation of both cider and perry together. In those cases, the sales denomination shall be ‘cider and perry spirit’.
- (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of cider spirit, perry spirit and cider and perry spirit shall be 37,5 %.
- (c) No addition of alcohol as defined in point (5) of Annex I, diluted or not, shall take place.
- (d) Neither cider spirit nor perry spirit nor cider and perry spirit shall be flavoured.
- (e) Cider spirit, perry spirit and cider and perry spirit may only contain added caramel as a means of adapting colour.]

11. **Honey spirit**

- (a) Honey spirit is a spirit drink:
 - (i) produced exclusively by fermentation and distillation of honey mash,
 - (ii) distilled at less than 86 % vol. so that the distillate has the organoleptic characteristics derived from the raw material used.

Status: Point in time view as at 31/01/2020.

Changes to legislation: *There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Regulation (EC) No 110/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Categories of spirit drinks. (See end of Document for details)*

- (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of honey spirit shall be 35 %.
 - (c) No addition of alcohol as defined in Annex I(5), diluted or not, shall take place.
 - (d) Honey spirit shall not be flavoured.
 - (e) Honey spirit may only contain added caramel as a means to adapt colour.
 - (f) Honey spirit may only be sweetened with honey.
12. ***Hefebrand or lees spirit***
- (a) *Hefebrand* or lees spirit is a spirit drink produced exclusively by the distillation at less than 86 % vol. of lees of wine or of fermented fruit.
 - (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of *Hefebrand* or lees spirit shall be 38 %.
 - (c) No addition of alcohol as defined in Annex I(5), diluted or not, shall take place.
 - (d) *Hefebrand* or lees spirit shall not be flavoured.
 - (e) *Hefebrand* or lees spirit may only contain added caramel as a means to adapt colour.
 - (f) The sales denomination *Hefebrand* or lees spirit shall be supplemented by the name of the raw material used.
13. ***Bierbrand or eau de vie de bière***
- (a) *Bierbrand* or *eau de vie de bière* is a spirit drink obtained exclusively by direct distillation under normal pressure of fresh beer with an alcoholic strength by volume of less than 86 % such that the distillate obtained has organoleptic characteristics deriving from the beer.
 - (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of *Bierbrand* or *eau de vie de bière* shall be 38 %.
 - (c) No addition of alcohol as defined in Annex I(5), diluted or not, shall take place.
 - (d) *Bierbrand* or *eau de vie de bière* shall not be flavoured.
 - (e) *Bierbrand* or *eau de vie de bière* may only contain added caramel as a means to adapt colour.
14. ***Topinambur or Jerusalem artichoke spirit***
- (a) *Topinambur* or Jerusalem artichoke spirit is a spirit drink produced exclusively by fermentation and distillation at less than 86 % vol. of Jerusalem artichoke tubers (*Helianthus tuberosus* L.).
 - (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of *topinambur* or Jerusalem artichoke spirit shall be 38 %.
 - (c) No addition of alcohol as defined in Annex I(5), diluted or not, shall take place.
 - (d) *Topinambur* or Jerusalem artichoke spirit shall not be flavoured.
 - (e) *Topinambur* or Jerusalem artichoke spirit may only contain added caramel as a means to adapt colour.
15. **Vodka**

Status: Point in time view as at 31/01/2020.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Regulation (EC) No 110/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Categories of spirit drinks. (See end of Document for details)

- (a) Vodka is a spirit drink produced from ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin obtained following fermentation with yeast from either:
- (i) potatoes and/or cereals, or
 - (ii) other agricultural raw materials,

distilled and/or rectified so that the organoleptic characteristics of the raw materials used and by-products formed in fermentation are selectively reduced.

This process may be followed by redistillation and/or treatment with appropriate processing aids, including treatment with activated charcoal, to give it special organoleptic characteristics.

Maximum levels of residue for ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin shall meet those laid down in Annex I, except that the methanol content shall not exceed 10 grams per hectolitre of 100 % vol. alcohol.

- (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of vodka shall be 37,5 %.
- (c) The only flavourings which may be added are natural flavouring compounds present in distillate obtained from the fermented raw materials. In addition, the product may be given special organoleptic characteristics, other than a predominant flavour.
- (d) The description, presentation or labelling of vodka not produced exclusively from the raw material(s) listed in paragraph (a)(i) shall bear the indication 'produced from ...', supplemented by the name of the raw material(s) used to produce the ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin. Labelling shall be in accordance with Article 13(2) of Directive 2000/13/EC.

16. Spirit (preceded by the name of the fruit) obtained by maceration and distillation

- (a) Spirit (preceded by the name of the fruit) obtained by maceration and distillation is a spirit drink:
- (i) produced by maceration of fruit or berries listed under point (ii), whether partially fermented or unfermented, with the possible addition of a maximum of 20 litres of ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin or spirit and/or distillate deriving from the same fruit per 100 kg of fermented fruit or berries, followed by distillation at less than 86 % vol.
 - (ii) ^[F2]obtained from the following fruits or berries:
 - blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* auct. aggr.),
 - strawberry (*Fragaria* spp.),
 - bilberry/blueberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus* L.),
 - raspberry (*Rubus idaeus* L.),
 - redcurrant (*Ribes rubrum* L.),
 - white currant (*Ribes niveum* Lindl.),
 - blackcurrant (*Ribes nigrum* L.),
 - sloe (*Prunus spinosa* L.),
 - rowanberry (*Sorbus aucuparia* L.),
 - service-berry (*Sorbus domestica* L.),
 - hollyberry (*Ilex aquifolium* and *Ilex cassine* L.),
 - checkerberry (*Sorbus torminalis* (L.) Crantz),

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Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Regulation (EC) No 110/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Categories of spirit drinks. (See end of Document for details)

- elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* L.),
- gooseberry (*Ribes uva-crispa* L. syn. *Ribes grossularia*),
- cranberry (*Vaccinium* L. subgenus *Oxycoccus*),
- lingonberry (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea* L.),
- high bush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum* L.),
- sea-buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides* L.),
- rosehip (*Rosa canina* L.),
- cloudberry (*Rubus chamaemorus* L.),
- crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum* L.),
- arctic bramble (*Rubus arcticus* L.),
- myrtle (*Myrtus communis* L.),
- banana (*Musa* spp.),
- passion fruit (*Passiflora edulis* Sims),
- ambarella (*Spondias dulcis* Sol. ex Parkinson),
- hog plum (*Spondias mombin* L.),
- walnut (*Juglans regia* L.),
- hazelnut (*Corylus avellana* L.),
- chestnut (*Castanea sativa* L.),
- citrus fruits (*Citrus* spp. L.),
- prickly pear (*Opuntia ficus-indica*).]

- (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of a Spirit (preceded by the name of the fruit) obtained by maceration and distillation shall be 37,5 %.
- (c) Spirit (preceded by the name of the fruit) obtained by maceration and distillation shall not be flavoured.
- (d) As regards the labelling and presentation of Spirit (preceded by the name of the fruit) obtained by maceration and distillation, the wording ‘obtained by maceration and distillation’ must appear on the description, presentation or labelling in characters of the same font, size and colour and in the same visual field as the wording ‘Spirit (preceded by the name of the fruit)’ and, in the case of bottles, on the front label.

Textual Amendments

- F2** Substituted by Commission Regulation (EU) No 426/2014 of 25 April 2014 amending Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 110/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of geographical indications of spirit drinks.

17. **Geist (with the name of the fruit or the raw material used)**

- (a) *Geist* (with the name of the fruit or the raw material used) is a spirit drink obtained by maceration of unfermented fruits and berries listed in category 16(a)(ii) or vegetables, nuts, or other plant materials such as herbs or rose petals in ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin, followed by distillation at less than 86 % vol.
- (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of *Geist* (with the name of the fruit or the raw material used) shall be 37,5 %.
- (c) *Geist* (with the name of the fruit or the raw material used) shall not be flavoured.

Status: Point in time view as at 31/01/2020.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Regulation (EC) No 110/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Categories of spirit drinks. (See end of Document for details)

18. **Gentian**

- (a) 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.
- (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of gentian shall be 37,5 %.
- (c) Gentian shall not be flavoured.

19. **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 %.
- (c) [^{F3}Other flavouring substances as defined in Article 3(2)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 1334/2008 and/or flavouring preparations as defined in Article 3(2)(d) of that Regulation, and/or aromatic plants or parts of aromatic plants may be used in addition, but the organoleptic characteristics of juniper must be discernible, even if they are sometimes attenuated.]
- (d) Juniper-flavoured spirit drinks may bear the sales denominations *Wacholder* or *genebra*.

Textual Amendments

- F3** Substituted by Regulation (EC) No 1334/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on flavourings and certain food ingredients with flavouring properties for use in and on foods and amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 1601/91, Regulations (EC) No 2232/96 and (EC) No 110/2008 and Directive 2000/13/EC (Text with EEA relevance).

20. **Gin**

- (a) *Gin* is a juniper-flavoured spirit drink produced by flavouring organoleptically suitable ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin with juniper berries (*Juniperus communis* L.).
- (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of *gin* shall be 37,5 %.
- (c) [^{F3}Only flavouring substances as defined in Article 3(2)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 1334/2008 and/or flavouring preparations as defined in Article 3(2)(d) of that Regulation shall be used for the production of gin so that the taste is predominantly that of juniper.]
- (d) [^{F4}The term ‘gin’ may be supplemented by the term ‘dry’ if it does not contain added sweetening exceeding 0,1 gram of sugars per litre of the final product.]

Status: Point in time view as at 31/01/2020.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Regulation (EC) No 110/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Categories of spirit drinks. (See end of Document for details)

Textual Amendments

F4 Inserted by [Commission Regulation \(EU\) No 98/2014 of 3 February 2014 amending Annexes II and III to Regulation \(EC\) No 110/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of geographical indications of spirit drinks.](#)

21. **Distilled *gin***

- (a) Distilled *gin* is:
- (i) a juniper-flavoured spirit drink produced exclusively by redistilling organoleptically suitable ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin of an appropriate quality with an initial alcoholic strength of at least 96 % vol. in stills traditionally used for *gin*, in the presence of juniper berries (*Juniperus communis* L.) and of other natural botanicals provided that the juniper taste is predominant, or
 - (ii) [^{F3}the mixture of the product of such distillation and ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin with the same composition, purity and alcoholic strength; flavouring substances and/or flavouring preparations as specified in category 20(c) may also be used to flavour distilled gin.]
- (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of distilled *gin* shall be 37,5 %.
- (c) *Gin* obtained simply by adding essences or flavourings to ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin is not distilled *gin*.
- (d) [^{F4}The term ‘distilled gin’ may be supplemented by the term ‘dry’ if it does not contain added sweetening exceeding 0,1 gram of sugars per litre of the final product.]

22. **London *gin***

- (a) *London gin* is a type of distilled *gin*:
- (i) obtained exclusively from ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin, with a maximum methanol content of 5 grams per hectolitre of 100 % vol. alcohol, whose flavour is introduced exclusively through the re-distillation in traditional stills of ethyl alcohol in the presence of all the natural plant materials used,
 - (ii) the resultant distillate of which contains at least 70 % alcohol by vol.,
 - (iii) where any further ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin is added it must be consistent with the characteristics listed in Annex I(1), but with a maximum methanol content of 5 grams per hectolitre of 100 % vol. alcohol,
 - (iv) which does not contain added sweetening exceeding 0,1 gram of sugars per litre of the final product nor colorants,
 - (v) which does not contain any other added ingredients other than water.
- (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of *London gin* shall be 37,5 %.
- (c) The term *London gin* may be supplemented by the term ‘dry’.

23. **Caraway-flavoured spirit drinks**

Status: Point in time view as at 31/01/2020.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Regulation (EC) No 110/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Categories of spirit drinks. (See end of Document for details)

- (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 %.
- (c) [^{F3}Other flavouring substances as defined in Article 3(2)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 1334/2008 and/or flavouring preparations as defined in Article 3(2)(d) of that Regulation may additionally be used but there must be a predominant taste of caraway.]

24. **Akvavit or aquavit**

- (a) [^{F2}*Akvavit* or *aquavit* is a caraway-flavoured and/or dillseed-flavoured spirit drink produced by using ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin, flavoured with a distillate of plants or spices.]
- (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of *akvavit* or *aquavit* shall be 37,5 %.
- (c) [^{F3}Other natural flavouring substances as defined in Article 3(2)(c) of Regulation (EC) No 1334/2008 and/or flavouring preparations as defined in Article 3(2)(d) of that Regulation may additionally be used, but the flavour of these drinks is largely attributable to distillates of caraway (*Carum carvi* L.) and/or dill (*Anethum graveolens* L.) seeds, the use of essential oils being prohibited.]
- (d) The bitter substances must not obviously dominate the taste; the dry extract content shall not exceed 1,5 grams per 100 millilitres.

25. **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 substances and [^{F3}flavouring preparations] as defined in Article 1(2)(b)(i) and Article 1(2)(c) of Directive 88/388/EEC may be used in the preparation of aniseed-flavoured spirit drinks.
- (d) Other natural plant extracts or aromatic seed may also be used, but the aniseed taste must remain predominant.

26. **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

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‘chalcones’ as well as glycyrrhizic acid, the minimum and maximum levels of which must be 0,05 and 0,5 grams per litre respectively.

- (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of *pastis* shall be 40 %.
- (c) Only natural flavouring substances and [F³flavouring preparations] as defined in Article 1(2)(b)(i) and Article 1(2)(c) of Directive 88/388/EEC may be used in the preparation of *pastis*.
- (d) *Pastis* contains less than 100 grams of sugars per litre, expressed as invert sugar, and has a minimum and maximum anethole level of 1,5 and 2 grams per litre respectively.

27. ***Pastis de Marseille***

- (a) *Pastis de Marseille* is a *pastis* with an anethole content of 2 grams per litre.
- (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of *pastis de Marseille* shall be 45 %.
- (c) Only natural flavouring substances and [F³flavouring preparations] as defined in Article 1(2)(b)(i) and Article 1(2)(c) of Directive 88/388/EEC may be used in the preparation of *pastis de Marseille*.

28. ***Anis***

- (a) *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.).
- (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of *anis* shall be 35 %.
- (c) Only natural flavouring substances and [F³flavouring preparations] as defined in Article 1(2)(b)(i) and Article 1(2)(c) of Directive 88/388/EEC may be used in the preparation of *anis*.

29. ***Distilled anis***

- (a) 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*.
- (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of distilled *anis* shall be 35 %.
- (c) Only natural flavouring substances and [F³flavouring preparations] as defined in Article 1(2)(b)(i) and Article 1(2)(c) of Directive 88/388/EEC may be used in the preparation of distilled *anis*.

30. ***Bitter-tasting spirit drinks or bitter***

- (a) [F³Bitter-tasting spirit drinks or bitter are spirit drinks with a predominantly bitter taste produced by flavouring ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin with flavouring substances as defined in Article 3(2)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 1334/2008 and/or flavouring preparations as defined in Article 3(2)(d) of that Regulation.]
- (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of bitter-tasting spirit drinks or *bitter* shall be 15 %.

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- (c) Bitter tasting spirit drinks or *bitter* may also be sold under the names ‘amer’ or ‘*bitter*’ with or without another term.

31. Flavoured vodka

- (a) Flavoured vodka is vodka which has been given a predominant flavour other than that of the raw materials.
- (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of flavoured vodka shall be 37,5 %.
- (c) Flavoured vodka may be sweetened, blended, flavoured, matured or coloured.
- (d) Flavoured vodka may also be sold under the name of any predominant flavour with the word ‘vodka’.

32. Liqueur

- (a) Liqueur is a spirit drink:
- (i) having a minimum sugar content, expressed as invert sugar, of:
- 70 grams per litre for cherry liqueurs the ethyl alcohol of which consists exclusively of cherry spirit,
 - 80 grams per litre for gentian or similar liqueurs prepared with gentian or similar plants as the sole aromatic substance,
 - 100 grams per litre in all other cases;
- (ii) [^{F5}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 foodstuffs have been added.]
- (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of liqueur shall be 15 %.
- (c) [^{F3}Flavouring substances as defined in Article 3(2)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 1334/2008 and flavouring preparations as defined in Article 3(2)(d) of that Regulation may be used in the preparation of liqueur. However, only natural flavouring substances as defined in Article 3(2)(c) of Regulation (EC) No 1334/2008 and flavouring preparations as defined in Article 3(2)(d) of that Regulation shall be used in the preparation of the following liqueurs:]
- (i) Fruit liqueurs:
- blackcurrant,
 - cherry,
 - raspberry,
 - mulberry,
 - bilberry,
 - citrus fruit,
 - cloudberry,
 - arctic bramble,
 - cranberry,
 - lingonberry,
 - sea buckthorn,
 - pineapple;

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- (ii) plant liqueurs:
- mint,
 - gentian,
 - aniseed,
 - g n pi,
 - vulnerable.
- (d) The following compound terms may be used in the presentation of liqueurs produced in the Community where ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin is used to mirror established production methods:
- *prune brandy*,
 - *orange brandy*,
 - *apricot brandy*,
 - *cherry brandy*,
 - *solbaerrom*, also called blackcurrant rum.

As regards the labelling and presentation of those liqueurs, the compound term must appear on the labelling in one line in uniform characters of the same font and colour and the word ‘liqueur’ must appear in immediate proximity in characters no smaller than that font. If the alcohol does not come from the spirit drink indicated, its origin must be shown on the labelling in the same visual field as the compound term and the word ‘liqueur’ either by stating the type of agricultural alcohol or by the words ‘agricultural alcohol’ preceded on each occasion by ‘made from’ or ‘made using’.

Textual Amendments

- F5** Substituted by [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2016/235 of 18 February 2016 amending Annex II to Regulation \(EC\) No 110/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of geographical indications of spirit drinks.](#)

33. **Cr me de (followed by the name of a fruit or the raw material used)**
- (a) Spirit drinks known as Cr me 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 litre expressed as invert sugar.
- (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of Cr me de (followed by the name of a fruit or the raw material used) shall be 15 %.
- (c) The rules on flavouring substances and [F3 flavouring preparations] for liqueurs laid down under category 32 shall apply to this spirit drink.
- (d) The sales denomination may be supplemented by the term ‘liqueur’.
34. **Cr me de cassis**
- (a) *Cr me de cassis* is a blackcurrant liqueur with a minimum sugar content of 400 grams per litre expressed as invert sugar.
- (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of *cr me de cassis* shall be 15 %.
- (c) The rules on flavouring substances and [F3 flavouring preparations] for liqueurs laid down under category 32 shall apply to *cr me de cassis*.

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(d) The sales denomination may be supplemented by the term ‘liqueur’.

35. ***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 %.

(c) The rules on flavouring substances and [^{F3}flavouring preparations] for liqueurs laid down under category 32 shall apply to *guignolet*.

(d) The sales denomination may be supplemented by the term ‘liqueur’.

36. ***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 %.

(c) The rules on flavouring substances and [^{F3}flavouring preparations] for liqueurs laid down under category 32 shall apply to *punch au rhum*.

(d) The sales denomination may be supplemented by the term ‘liqueur’.

37. ***Sloe gin***

(a) *Sloe gin* is a liqueur produced by maceration of sloes in *gin* with the possible addition of sloe juice.

(b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of *sloe gin* shall be 25 %.

(c) Only natural flavouring substances and [^{F3}flavouring preparations] as defined in Article 1(2)(b)(i) and Article 1(2)(c) of Directive 88/388/EEC may be used in the preparation of *sloe gin*.

(d) The sales denomination may be supplemented by the term ‘liqueur’.

[^{F6}37a. **‘Sloe-aromatised spirit drink or *Pacharán*’**

Sloe-aromatised spirit drink or *Pacharán* is a spirit drink:

(a) 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;

(b) which has a minimum alcoholic strength by volume of 25 %;

(c) for the production of which a minimum quantity of 125 grams of sloe fruits per litre of final product has been used;

(d) which has sugar content, expressed as invert sugar between 80 and 250 grams per litre of the final product;

(e) the organoleptic characteristics, colour and taste of which are provided exclusively by the fruit used and the anise.

The term ‘*Pacharán*’ may be used as a sales denomination only when the product is manufactured in Spain. When the product is manufactured outside Spain, ‘*Pacharán*’ may only

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be used to supplement the sales denomination ‘Sloe-aromatised spirit drink’, provided that it is accompanied by the words: ‘produced in ...’, followed by the name of the Member State or third country of the manufacture.]

Textual Amendments

F6 Inserted by [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2015/210 of 10 February 2015 amending Annexes II and III to Regulation \(EC\) No 110/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of geographical indications of spirit drinks.](#)

38. *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 litre expressed as invert sugar,
 - (iii) with a natural anethole content of not less than 1 gram and not more than 2 grams per litre.
- (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of *sambuca* shall be 38 %.
- (c) The rules on flavouring substances and [F³flavouring preparations] for liqueurs laid down under category 32 apply to *sambuca*.
- (d) The sales denomination may be supplemented by the term ‘liqueur’.

39. *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 litre expressed as invert sugar.
- (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of *maraschino, marrasquino* or *maraskino* shall be 24 %.
- (c) The rules on flavouring substances and [F³flavouring preparations] for liqueurs laid down under category 32 shall apply to *maraschino, marrasquino* or *maraskino*.
- (d) The sales denomination may be supplemented by the term ‘liqueur’.

40. *Nocino*

- (a) *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 litre expressed as invert sugar.
- (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of *nocino* shall be 30 %.
- (c) The rules on flavouring substances and [F³flavouring preparations] for liqueurs laid down under category 32 shall apply to *nocino*.
- (d) The sales denomination may be supplemented by the term ‘liqueur’.

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41. **Egg liqueur or advocaat or avocacat or advokat**

- (a) Egg liqueur or *advocaat* or *avocacat* 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 must be 150 grams per litre expressed as invert sugar. The minimum content of pure egg yolk must be 140 grams per litre of the final product.
- (b) By way of derogation from Article 2(1)(c), the minimum alcoholic strength by volume of egg liqueur or *advocaat* or *avocacat* or *advokat* shall be 14 %.
- (c) [^{F3}Only flavouring substances as defined in Article 3(2)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 1334/2008 and flavouring preparations as defined in Article 3(2)(d) of that Regulation may be used in the preparation of egg liqueur or *advocaat* or *avocacat* or *advokat*.]

42. **Liqueur with egg**

- (a) Liqueur with egg is a spirit drink, whether or not flavoured, obtained from ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin, distillate and/or spirit, the characteristic ingredients of which are quality egg yolk, egg white and sugar or honey. The minimum sugar or honey content must be 150 grams per litre expressed as invert sugar. The minimum egg yolk content must be 70 grams per litre of the final product.
- (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of liqueur with egg shall be 15 %.
- (c) Only natural flavouring substances and [^{F3}flavouring preparations] as defined in Article 1(2)(b)(i) and Article 1(2)(c) of Directive 88/388/EEC may be used in the preparation of liqueur with egg.

43. **Mistrà**

- (a) *Mistrà* is a colourless spirit drink flavoured with aniseed or natural anethole:
 - (i) with an anethole content of not less than 1 gram and not more than 2 grams per litre,
 - (ii) that may also contain a distillate of aromatic herbs,
 - (iii) containing no added sugar.
- (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of *mistrà* shall be 40 % and the maximum alcoholic strength by volume shall be 47 %.
- (c) Only natural flavouring substances and [^{F3}flavouring preparations] as defined in Article 1(2)(b)(i) and Article 1(2)(c) of Directive 88/388/EEC may be used in the preparation of *mistrà*.

44. **Väkevü glögi or spritglögg**

- (a) [^{F3}Väkevü glögi or spritglögg is a spirit drink produced by flavouring ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin with flavour of cloves and/or cinnamon using one of the following processes: maceration and/or distillation, redistillation of the alcohol in the presence of parts of the plants specified above, addition of natural flavouring substances as defined in Article 3(2)(c) of Regulation (EC) No 1334/2008 of cloves or cinnamon or a combination of these methods.]

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- (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of *väkevä glögi* or *spritglögg* shall be 15 %.
- (c) [^{F3}Other flavourings, flavouring substances and/or flavouring preparations as defined in Article 3(2)(b), (d) and (h) of Regulation (EC) No 1334/2008 may also be used, but the flavour of the specified spices must be predominant.]
- (d) The content of wine or wine products shall not exceed 50 % of the final product.

45. ***Berenburg* or *Beerenburg***

- (a) *Berenburg* or *Beerenburg* is a spirit drink:
 - (i) produced using ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin,
 - (ii) with the maceration of fruit or plants or parts thereof,
 - (iii) containing as specific flavour distillate of gentian root (*Gentiana lutea* L.), of juniper berries (*Juniperus communis* L.) and of laurel leaves (*Laurus nobilis* L.),
 - (iv) varying in colour from light to dark brown,
 - (v) which may be sweetened to a maximum of 20 grams per litre expressed as invert sugar.
- (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of *Berenburg* or *Beerenburg* shall be 30 %.
- (c) Only natural flavouring substances and [^{F3}flavouring preparations] as defined in Article 1(2)(b)(i) and Article 1(2)(c) of Directive 88/388/EEC may be used in the preparation of *Berenburg* or *Beerenburg*.

46. **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.
- (b) The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of honey or mead nectar shall be 22 %.
- (c) Only natural flavouring substances and [^{F3}flavouring preparations] as defined in Article 1(2)(b)(i) and Article 1(2)(c) of Directive 88/388/EEC may be used in the preparation of honey or mead nectar provided that the honey taste is predominant.
- (d) Honey or mead nectar may be sweetened only with honey.

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Changes to legislation:

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