

# PRODUCT TESTING PARAMETER GUIDELINES — READY TO DRINK

## PURPOSE

The following table outlines acceptable limits for each parameter the NSLC test for. Each column represents an internal triage level with corresponding actions. This table is meant to help you understand the results of your Certificate of Analysis (COA).

- **Green** (adherence) indicates your product fell below Health Canada regulated and NSLC limits and no further action is required.
- **Yellow** (minor variance) indicates your product is approaching Health Canada regulated limits and has exceeded NSLC limits. Products that fall into the yellow category will receive follow-up communications and may be triaged for further assessment including retesting or a sensory review.
- **Red** (major variance) indicates your product has exceeded a Health Canada regulated limit. Products in this category will receive a follow-up call and notification to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). The CFIA will work with you directly to assess risk and advise on next steps, if required.

## PARAMETER LIMITS

RTD ELEMENT TESTED	ADHERENCE	MINOR VARIANCE	MAJOR VARIANCE	HEALTH CANADA LIMIT
ABV Allowance - products under 4.0% ABV	Less than $\pm 0.3\%$	$\pm 0.4\%$ to $\pm 0.5\%$	Greater than $\pm 0.6\%$	N/A
ABV Allowance - products 4.1 - 5.5% ABV	Less than $\pm 0.5\%$	$\pm 0.6\%$ to $\pm 1.0\%$	Greater than $\pm 1.1\%$	N/A
ABV Allowance - products over 5.6% ABV	Less than $\pm 1.0\%$	$\pm 1.1\%$ to $\pm 1.5\%$	Greater than $\pm 1.6\%$	N/A
Total SO <sub>2</sub>	Less than 100 mg/L	N/A	Greater than 100 mg/L	Limit 100 ppm (100 mg/L)
Free SO <sub>2</sub>	Less than 30 mg/L	N/A	Greater than 30 mg/L	Limit 30 ppm (30 mg/L)
Sugar*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sorbic acid	Less than 500 mg/L	N/A	Greater than 500 mg/L	Limit 500 ppm (500 mg/L)
Ethyl Carbamate - non dairy based product	Less than 15 $\mu\text{g/L}$	N/A	Greater than 15 $\mu\text{g/L}$	Limit 15 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ ** (15 $\mu\text{g/L}$ )
Ethyl Carbamate - dairy based product	Less than 100 $\mu\text{g/L}$	N/A	Greater than 100 $\mu\text{g/L}$	Limit 100 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ ** (100 $\mu\text{g/L}$ )
Arsenic	Less than 100 $\mu\text{g/L}$	N/A	Greater than 100 $\mu\text{g/L}$	Limit 100 $\mu\text{g/L}$
Cadmium	Less than 20 $\mu\text{g/L}$	N/A	Greater than 20 $\mu\text{g/L}$	Limit 20 $\mu\text{g/L}$
Cobalt	Less than 20 $\mu\text{g/L}$	N/A	Greater than 20 $\mu\text{g/L}$	Limit 20 $\mu\text{g/L}$
Lead	Less than 200 $\mu\text{g/L}$	N/A	Greater than 200 $\mu\text{g/L}$	Limit 200 $\mu\text{g/L}$

# PRODUCT TESTING PARAMETER GUIDELINES — READY TO DRINK

RTD ELEMENT TESTED	ADHERENCE	MINOR VARIANCE	MAJOR VARIANCE	HEALTH CANADA LIMIT
Synthetic Dyes	Not Present	Present	Present	See Synthetic Dye Table Below

## Glossary of Terms

ABV - alcohol by volume  
 ppm - parts per million  
 mg/L - milligrams per litre  
 µg/L - micrograms per litre  
 µg/kg - micrograms per kilogram

\*Sugar is tested to facilitate SO<sub>2</sub> allowances

\*\*Conversion factor = micrograms per litre divided by the density (g/cm<sup>3</sup>) of the product

## NSLC Testing Synthetic Dyes in Non-Standard Products

Note: According to the Food and Drug Regulations, synthetic dyes are not permitted for use in standardized beverage alcohol products except for Liqueurs.

GROUP	DYE NAME	MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE LIMIT
Group A*	Allura Red	300 mg/L
	Amaranth	300 mg/L
	Erythrosine	300 mg/L
	Tartrazine	300 mg/L
	Sunset Yellow FCF	300 mg/L
Group B*	Indigo Carmine (Indigotine)	300 mg/L
	Fast Green	100 mg/L
Group C	Brillint Blue FCF	100 mg/L
	Any combination of synthetic dyes named in Group A or B above.	300 mg/L Individual dyes shall not exceed maximum Allowable Limit stated for the named dye.

\*Health Canada - List of Permitted Colouring Agents - Group A - see Item No. 3

\*Health Canada - List of Permitted Colouring Agents - Group B - see Item No. 4

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have further questions regarding the established limits, product testing, or your COA results, please direct them to [ProductTesting@MyNSLC.com](mailto:ProductTesting@MyNSLC.com).