

# Product Testing Parameter Guidelines – Cider

## 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 complied with Health Canada regulated and NSLC limits and no further action is required.

**YELLOW** (minor variance) indicates your product is approaching either the Health Canada regulated limit or the NSLC limit. Products that fall into the yellow category will receive follow-up communication and may be triaged for further assessment including retesting or a sensory review.

**RED** (major variance) indicates your product has exceeded either the Health Canada regulated limit or the NSLC limit. Products in this category will receive a follow-up communication and may trigger a notification to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), if applicable. The CFIA will work with you directly to assess risk and advise on the next steps if required.

## PARAMETER LIMITS

TESTING PARAMETER	ADHERENCE	MINOR VARIANCE	MAJOR VARIANCE	HEALTH CANADA LIMIT
ABV Allowance - If 2.5% - 4.0% ABV ****	Less than or equal to $\pm 0.3\%$	$\pm 0.4\%$ to $\pm 0.5\%$	Greater than or equal to $\pm 0.6\%$	N/A
ABV Allowance - If 4.1% - 5.5% ABV	Less than or equal to $\pm 0.5\%$	$\pm 0.6\%$ to $\pm 1.0\%$	Greater than or equal to $\pm 1.1\%$	N/A
ABV Allowance - If 5.6% - 13% ABV ****	Less than or equal to $\pm 1.0\%$	$\pm 1.1\%$ to $\pm 1.5\%$	Greater than or equal to $\pm 1.6\%$	N/A
Total SO <sub>2</sub> - products under 35 g/L sugar	Less than or equal to 300 mg/L	N/A	Greater than 300 mg/L	Limit 420 mg/L
Total SO <sub>2</sub> - products containing 35g/L sugar and over	Less than or equal to 400 mg/L	N/A	Greater than 400 mg/L	Limit 420 mg/L
Free SO <sub>2</sub> - products under 35 g/L sugar	Less than or equal to 50 mg/L	N/A	Greater than 50 mg/L	Limit 70 mg/L
Free SO <sub>2</sub> - products containing 35g/L sugar and over	Less than or equal to 70 mg/L	N/A	Greater than 70 mg/L	Limit 70 mg/L
Volatile Acidity (acetic acid g/L)*	Less than or equal to 1.3 g/L	N/A	Greater than 1.3 g/L	Limit 0.2% w/v (2 g/L)
Sugar**	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sorbic acid - products under 10 g/L sugar	Less than or equal to 200 mg/L	Greater than 200 mg/L	Greater than 500 ppm (500 mg/L)	Limit 500 ppm (500 mg/L)
Sorbic acid - products over 10 g/L sugar	Less than or equal to 500 mg/L	N/A	Greater than 500 ppm (500 mg/L)	Limit 500 ppm (500 mg/L)
Ethyl Carbamate	Less than or equal to 30 µg/L	N/A	Greater than 30 µg/L	Limit 30 µg/kg *** (30 µg/L)
Arsenic	Less than or equal to 100 µg/L	N/A	Greater than 100 µg/L	Limit 100 µg/L
Cadmium	Less than or equal to 20 µg/L	N/A	Greater than 20 µg/L	Limit 20 µg/L
Cobalt	Less than or equal to 20 µg/L	N/A	Greater than 20 µg/L	Limit 20 µg/L

TESTING PARAMETER	ADHERENCE	MINOR VARIANCE	MAJOR VARIANCE	HEALTH CANADA LIMIT
Lead	Less than or equal to 200 µg/L	N/A	Greater than 200 µg/L	Limit 200 µg/L
Synthetic Dyes	Not Present	N/A	Present	No Synthetic Dyes
Pesticides	See below for parameter limits			

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**ABV** - alcohol by volume  
**g/L** - grams per litre  
**ppm** - parts per million  
**mg/L** - milligrams per litre  
**µg/L** - micrograms per litre  
**µg/kg** - micrograms per kilogram  
**w/v** - weight/volume

\*Volatile Acidity as Sulphuric Acid (g/L) = Volatile Acidity x 0.815  
 \*\*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  
 \*\*\*\* Cider alcohol by volume range: 2.5% - 13.0% ABV

## 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)