

PRODUCT TESTING PARAMETER GUIDELINES — SPIRITS

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

SPIRIT ELEMENT TESTED	ADHERENCE	MINOR VARIANCE	MAJOR VARIANCE	HEALTH CANADA LIMIT
ABV Allowance - no macerated fruit/plants	Less than $\pm 0.3\%$	$\pm 0.4\%$ to $\pm 1.9\%$	Greater than $\pm 2.0\%$	N/A
ABV Allowance - macerated fruit/plants	Less than $\pm 1.5\%$	$\pm 1.6\%$ to $\pm 2.9\%$	Greater than $\pm 3.0\%$	N/A
Methanol	Less than 6000 mg/L	N/A	Greater than 6000 mg/L	N/A
Sugar - Vodka/Dry Gin products	Less than 2 g/L	N/A	Greater than 2 g/L	Limit 2 g/L
Ethyl Carbamate - non fruit spirit	Less than 150 $\mu\text{g/L}$	N/A	Greater than 150 $\mu\text{g/L}$	Limit 150 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ *(150 $\mu\text{g/L}$)
Ethyl Carbamate - fruit spirit	Less than 400 $\mu\text{g/L}$	N/A	Greater than 400 $\mu\text{g/L}$	Limit 400 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ *(400 $\mu\text{g/L}$)
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 $\mu\text{g/L}$
Synthetic Dyes - liqueurs only	Not Present	Present	Present	See Synthetic Dye Table Below

Glossary of Terms

ABV - alcohol by volume
g/L - grams per litre
 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ - micrograms per kilogram
 $\mu\text{g/L}$ - micrograms per litre

*Conversion factor = micrograms per litre divided by the density (g/cm^3) of the product

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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
	Indigo Carmine (Indigotine)	300 mg/L
Group B*	Fast Green	100 mg/L
	Brilliant Blue FCF	100 mg/L
Group C	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.