2021

perennia
ideas • innovation • success

FACTSHEET
CIDER & SPIRITS

perennia
ideas • innovation • success

FACT SHEET

CIDER & SPIRITS |

FOOD SAFETY REGULATIONS

A standard of identity (or compositional standard) sets out what ingredients a product must contain, what ingredients it may contain, and any requirements of manufacturing.

Cider is a standardized product under the **Food and Drug Regulations (FDR) sections B.02.120 – B.02.123**. All standardized cider products must meet the composition and manufacturing requirements described in these sections.

Whisky, Rum, Liqueur, Gin, Tequila, Brandy and Cognac, and Vodka are all standardized products under the FDR. All standardized spirit products must meet the composition, manufacturing and labelling requirements described in these sections.

Cider and spirit products are also subject to traceability, packaging and labelling requirements described in the **Safe Food for Canadians Regulations (SFCR)**.

STANDARD OF IDENTITY

Standardized cider products outlined in the FDR include Cider and Champagne Cider.

Standardized spirit products outlined in the FDR include:

Whisky (sections B.02.010 – B.02.023): Whisky; Malt Whisky; Scotch Whisky; Irish Whisky; Canadian Whisky, Canadian Rye Whisky or Rye Whisky; Highland Whisky; Bourbon Whisky; Tennessee Whisky

Rum (sections B.02.030 – B.02.031): Rum

Gin (sections B.02.040 – B.02.043): Hollands, Hollands Gin, Geneva, Geneva Gin, Genever, Genever Gin or Dutch-type Gin; Gin

Brandy (sections B.02.050 – B.02.061): Brandy; Armagnac Brandy or Armagnac; Canadian Brandy; Cognac Brandy or Cognac; Dried Fruit Brandy; Fruit Brandy; Grappa; Lees Brandy; Pomace or Marc

Liqueurs or Spirituous Cordials (section B.02.070): Liqueur or Spirituous Cordial

Vodka (section B.02.080): Vodka

Tequila (section B.02.090): Tequila

perennia
ideas • innovation • success

FACT SHEET

CIDER & SPIRITS |

TRACEABILITY – DOCUMENTATION AND LABELLING

DOCUMENTATION

As of July 15, 2020, traceability is required for alcoholic beverages if you conduct interprovincial trade of alcoholic beverages from one province to another, export, import, or sell to consumers at retail.

If you sell products at retail, you must have access to documents that enable you to:

- Identify the product by indicating the:
  - » Common name
  - » Name and principal place of business
  - » Lot code* or unique identifier**
- Trace the product one step back if someone else provided you with the product. This includes input materials such as ingredients, packaging, chemicals, etc. This documentation must have the name and address of the supplier, the date product was received and the amount of product received.

If you are selling product to businesses other than retail, you must have access to documents that enable you to:

- Identify the product by indicating the:
  - » Common name
  - » Name and principal place of business
  - » Lot code* or unique identifier**
- Trace the product one step back if someone else provided you with the product. This includes input materials such as ingredients, packaging, chemicals, etc. This documentation must have the name and address of the supplier, the date product was received and the amount of product received.
- Trace the product (i.e. finished product) one step forward. This documentation must have the name and address of the receiver, the date product was shipped and the amount of product shipped.

LABELLING

The label on the product will need to have:

- Common name
- Name and principal place of business
- Lot code* (consumer prepackaged) or unique identifier** (prepackaged other than consumer prepackaged, e.g. shipping container)

* Lot Code: A code that can be used to identify a lot that was manufactured, prepared, produced, stored, graded, packaged or labelled, under the same conditions. A lot code can be numeric, alphabetic or alphanumeric. Examples include production date, best before date, establishment number, or SFC licence number.

** Unique Identifier: A code that can be used to identify a defined quantity of product. Examples include a lot code, purchase order number, or a bill of lading number.

perennia
ideas • innovation • success

FACT SHEET

CIDER & SPIRITS | ©Perennia 2021

PACKAGING – GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- Must be suitable for its intended use and appropriate for the product
- Must be capable of protecting the product against moisture, loss, damage, contamination and deterioration during normal handling, storing and conveying
- Must be clean and in a sanitary condition
- Must be of sound construction
- Must be free from odours that might affect the product
- Must not impart any undesirable substance to the product
- Must not have a design or mark, or be of a colour, that enhances the appearance of the product with respect to its quality or composition

LABELLING

- Products must not be labelled or advertised in a false, misleading or deceptive manner or that is likely to create the wrong impression.
- Alcoholic beverages sold intraprovincially (within the province) are subject to labelling requirements under the FDR and SFCR that apply to prepackaged products sold in Canada, regardless of trade level.

The labelling requirements below are specific to alcoholic beverages both with and without prescribed standards. Labels must contain the following:

COMMON NAME

- The common name can be any of the following options:
  - » The standardized name of the product listed in the FDR or in the Canadian Standards of Identity that is incorporated by reference in the SFCR
  - » The unstandardized name by which the product is generally known or that identifies its function (e.g. Alcoholic beverage)

NAME AND PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS

- Name and principal place of business of the person who has manufactured, prepared, produced, stored, packaged, or labelled the product, or the person for who the product was manufactured, prepared, produced, stored, packaged or labelled. This is the name of the holder or owner responsible for the prepackaged product and the physical location where the main activities occur.

NET QUANTITY

- The net quantity declaration must be on the principal display panel in millilitres or for amounts over 1000 ml, in litres.
- When two or more completely labelled products are sold together as a single unit, such as a case, the following information must be shown in the net quantity:
  - » The number of products in each class and the identity of each class in terms of the common name, e.g. 6 cans of cider
  - » The total net quantity in each class in the unit or the individual net quantity of each identical product in the unit, e.g. “6 cans of cider 2.13 L” or “cider - 6 cans × 355 ml”

ALCOHOL BY VOLUME DECLARATION

- All alcoholic beverages containing 1.1% or more alcohol by volume must declare the percentage by volume of alcohol contained in the product. This can be shown as:
  - » “X % alcohol by volume” or be abbreviated “X % alc./vol.” or “X% alc/vol”
  - » The percentage may be in the middle of the declaration “alc X% vol” or “alc. X% vol.”
- Must be shown on the principal display panel and in both English and French.
- The French translation is “X % d’alcool par volume”. When abbreviated, the statements “X % alc./vol.”, “X% alc/vol”, “alc X% vol” and “alc. X% vol.” are fully bilingual.

perennia
ideas • innovation • success

FACT SHEET

CIDER & SPIRITS | ©Perennia 2021

DATE MARKINGS AND STORAGE INSTRUCTIONS

- Required on prepackaged products with a durable life date (i.e. best before date) of 90 days or less and is voluntary for products with a durable life greater than 90 days.

LIST OF INGREDIENTS, FOOD ALLERGENS, GLUTEN AND ADDED SULPHITES

- Standardized cider and spirit products are exempt from the requirement to declare a list of ingredients on the label. Unstandardized cider and spirit products require a complete list of ingredients and their components.
- Added allergens, gluten sources and sulphites at a level of 10 ppm or more must be declared. If ingredients on the label of a cider or spirit are voluntarily declared, then food allergen sources, gluten sources or added sulphites could be declared as part of that list. If not, then a "Contains" statement is required.

FOOD ADDITIVES & SWEETENERS

- A food additive is any substance that may become a part of or affect the characteristics of a food. Examples include sweeteners, colouring agents, emulsifying agents, pH adjusting agents, starch modifying agents, etc.
  - » **Note:** Sweeteners are not the same as sweetening agents such as white and brown table sugar, molasses and honey.
  - » **Note:** Processing aids differ from food additives in that they do not become a part of or affect the characteristics of a food. Processing aids do not need to be declared in the list of ingredients.
- Only food additives and sweeteners that are permitted for use in Canada as outlined by **Health Canada** can be used, and they must only be used in certain foods and in accordance with maximum levels of use and other conditions.
- Food additives and sweeteners must be declared in the list of ingredients of a prepackaged product by an acceptable common name unless the product is exempt from including a list of ingredients. They may be listed at the end of the list of ingredients in any order.

Please note that there are only 3 sweeteners permitted in alcoholic beverage products. These are subject to **additional labelling requirements**.

- Erythritol up to a maximum of 3.5% in unstandardized alcoholic beverages
- Sucralose up to a maximum of 0.07% in unstandardized alcoholic beverages
- Saccharin up to a maximum of 0.12% in unstandardized alcoholic liqueurs

NUTRITION LABELLING

- Beverages with an alcohol content of more than 0.5% are usually exempt from carrying a Nutrition Fact Table.
- This exemption is lost when nutrient content claims are made or an unstandardized alcoholic beverage contains added sucralose, aspartame, acesulfame-potassium and/or neotame.

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

- A clear indication of the country of origin is required on brandy products that are wholly distilled in a country other than Canada. This declaration must be shown in English and French and must appear on the principal display panel.

VOLUNTARY CLAIMS AND STATEMENTS

- **Age Claims**
- **Use of the Term "dry"**
- **Use of the Term "light"**
- **Low Alcohol**
- **Vodka-Flavoured Claims**
- **Gluten-Free Claim**
- **Organic Claim**

perennia
ideas • innovation • success

FACT SHEET

CIDER & SPIRITS | ©Perennia 2021

BILINGUAL LABELLING

Consumer prepackaged product

- Mandatory information on consumer prepackaged products must be shown in both official languages (English and French). Exemptions exist for **specialty foods, local foods and test market foods**.
- The following are exceptions and can be labelled in one official language (English and French):
  - » Name and principal place of business
  - » The common name of certain alcoholic beverages, if they appear on the principal display exactly as shown in the FDR

PRODUCT-SPECIFIC LABELLING INFORMATION FOR SPIRITS

- **Whisky**
- **Rum**
- **Gin**
- **Brandy**
- **Liqueur**
- **Vodka**
- **Flavoured Purified Alcohol**

RETAIL LABELLING REQUIREMENTS

Note that retailers may also have additional labelling requirements, such as the UPC.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD

Division 15 of the FDR outlines a **list of contaminants and other adulterating substances permitted in food** as well as the **maximum level of chemical contaminants in food**. Maximum residue limits (MRL) for pesticides is regulated under the Pest Control Products Act and the limits for each product can be found in the **MRL database**.

RESOURCES

Food and Drug Regulations (FDR)

Safe Food for Canadians Regulation (SFCR)

SFCR Traceability

SFCR General Labelling Requirements