**ANNEX 2 OF RESOLUTION No. 332-2013 (COMIECO-LXVI)**

**CENTRAL AMERICA RTCA 67.01.06:11**

**TECHNICAL**

**REGULATION**

**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.**

**DISTILLED ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES. LABELLING REQUIREMENTS**

**CORRESPONDENCE**: This Regulation is a partial adoption of the Standard of Alcoholic Beverages. Labelling Part 1. Labelling of Distilled Beverages COGUANOR NGO 33 002 h1:99

ICS 67.160.10 RTCA 67.01.06:11

Central American Technical Regulation, edited by:

* Ministry of Economy, MINECO
* Salvadoran Agency for Technical Regulation, OSARTEC
* Ministry of Development, Industry and Commerce, MIFIC
* Ministry of Industry and Trade, SIC
* Ministry of Economy, Industry and Trade, MEIC

**REPORT**

The respective Technical Standardisation Committees across the Standardisation Bodies of Central America are the bodies in charge to conduct the study or the adoption of standards. They are composed of representatives of Private Enterprise, Government, Consumer Protection Agencies and Academic University.

This Central American Technical Regulation RTCA 67.01.06: 11 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES. DISTILLED ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES. LABELLING REQUIREMENTS. was adopted by the Sub-Group on Standardisation Measures of Central America. The formalisation of this Technical Regulation implies the adoption by the Council of Ministers for Economic Integration (COMIECO).

**PARTICIPATING MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

**For El Salvador**

Salvadoran Agency for Technical Regulation, OSARTEC

**For Guatemala**

Ministry of Economy, MINECO

**For Nicaragua**

Ministry of Trade and Industry, MIFIC

**For Honduras**

Department/Ministry of Trade and Industry, SIC

**For Costa Rica**

Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, MEIC

1. **Objective**

To establish the requirements the labelling of pre-packaged distilled alcoholic beverages for human consumption that must be complied.

1. **Scope**

Applies to the labelling of all distilled alcoholic beverages, alone or mixed, in their final unit of presentation, and are marketed in the territory of the Central American countries.

1. **Definitions and terminology**
   1. **Food additive**: means any substance that is not normally consumed as a food in itself and not normally used as a typical ingredient of food, whether or not it has nutritive value, whose intentional addition to food for a technological purpose (including organoleptic) in the manufacture, processing, treatment, packing, packaging, transport or storage causes, or may reasonably be expected to cause directly or indirectly, which itself or its by-products become a supplement to the food or affect its characteristics. This definition does not include contaminants or substances added to food for maintaining or improving nutritional qualities.
   2. **Alcoholic beverage**: alcoholic product, suitable for human consumption, obtained by fermentation of raw materials of vegetable origin and which is submitted, or not, to distillation, rectification, infusion, maceration or cooking of natural products, with an alcohol content greater than 0.5% by volume; the product can be aged or not, various ingredients and additives can be added or not.
   3. **Distilled alcoholic beverage**: beverage obtained by alcoholic fermentation of products of plant origin and subsequent distillation, which can be aged[[1]](#footnote-1) according to the characteristics of the final beverage that you want to obtain.
   4. **Mixed distilled alcoholic beverage**: is the product made from distilled alcoholic beverages, liquors, or mixtures of these, and other ingredients may be added.
   5. **Net content**: quantity of liquid contained in a specific container. Stated in SI units, any other unit that the manufacturer deems appropriate may be added.
   6. **Container**: any container containing distilled alcoholic beverage for delivery as a unique product that covers totally or partially.
   7. **Label**: any tag, label, mark, image or other descriptive or graphic material that has been written, printed, stencilled, embossed, gravure printed, stuck or superimposed to the container.
   8. **Supplemental label**: one that is used to make available the mandatory information, when the original label is in a language other than Spanish or to add those mandatory elements not included in the original label that this regulation requires.
   9. **Labelled**: any written, printed or graphic material that contains the tag, and which accompanies the distilled alcoholic beverage.
   10. **Maturity or expiration date**: the date that ends the period during which the manufacturer guarantees the product quality attributes normally expected by consumers, provided that it has been stored under the conditions indicated by the manufacturer. After this date it will not be considered saleable.
   11. **Alcohol content**: percentage by volume of ethyl alcohol in an alcoholic beverage, based on 20°C.
   12. **Ingredient**: any substance, including food additives, which are used in the manufacture, preparation and storage of beverages and is present in the final product, although possibly in a modified form.
   13. **Batch**: certain quantity of distilled alcoholic beverages produced under essentially the same conditions, which are identified by a code at the time of being packed.
   14. **Cap**: pieces with which containers are covered.
2. **GENERAL CONDITIONS OF LABELS**
   1. Distilled alcoholic beverages shall not be described or presented with a label or labelling in a manner that is false, misleading or deceptive or likely to create an erroneous impression regarding its character in any respect.

Distilled alcoholic beverages shall not be described or presented with a label or labelling which uses words, artwork or other graphic representations that refer to or suggest, directly or indirectly any other product that the product in question might be confused, or in such a way as to lead the purchaser or consumer to suppose that the alcoholic beverage is related in any way to that other product.

* 1. The information that must appear on the label, under this technical regulation or any other product specific technical regulations shall be indicated by clear characters, visible, indelible and easy to read by the consumer under normal conditions of purchase and use characters.
  2. For presenting the information on the label characters should be used whose height is not less than 1 mm, this referring to the height and distance ranging from the baseline to the top base of an uppercase character.
  3. Labels must be written in the Spanish language, when the language in which the original label is not drafted in Spanish, a supplementary label should be placed containing the mandatory information set out in section 5 of this regulation.
  4. On labels that stick to the container, the inscriptions may be on the back of them, provided that they are clearly legible and visible through the package with its contents.
  5. When the container is covered by a wrapper, the wrapper shall contain all the necessary information or the label on the container shall be easy to read through the outer wrapper or not obscured by it.
  6. Indications which attribute to the product a preventive or curative action is not allowed on the labels.
  7. When a distilled alcoholic beverage is subjected to the aging process and the time is declared on the label, this declaration should refer to full years.

1. **COMPULSORY LABELLING FOR DISTILLED ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

The following information must appear on the label of distilled alcoholic beverages[[2]](#footnote-2):

* 1. Product name: should indicate the true nature of the distilled alcoholic beverage.
     1. You can use a fancy, factory, or a brand name.
     2. When you do not have a specific name, a common or usual name established by common usage as an appropriate descriptive term which is not misleading or confusing to the consumer should be used.
  2. **Alcohol content**: should indicate the alcoholic strength in SI units, using “% alc./vol.” or other abbreviations or equivalent phrases. You may use additionally the unit “G. L.” (degrees Gay Lussac).
  3. **Net contents**: must indicate the net content in SI units (SI).
  4. **List of ingredients**: except in the case of single-ingredient foods, a list of ingredients must appear on the label.

The list of ingredients must be headed or preceded by an appropriate title which consists of the term “ingredients” or include, in the case that the drink is mixed with other products, these other products must be declared. The list of ingredients must be in descending order. When additives other than manufacturing co-formulants are incorporated, these must be declared.

* 1. **Name and address**
     1. The name and address of the manufacturer, packer, distributor or exporter of domestic products shall be indicated, as appropriate.
     2. For imported products the name and address of the importer or distributor of the distilled alcoholic beverage shall be indicated.
  2. **Health registration**: the registration number issued by the competent authority should be indicated. The statement must begin with a phrase or abbreviation indicating clearly to the consumer this information and may use the phrase “Health Registration” and abbreviations such as Reg. San., RS, among others.
  3. **Cautionary caption or warning**: a warning that “excessive consumption of alcohol is harmful to health” or similar should be included on the label.[[3]](#footnote-3)
  4. **Batch identification**: each package must be embossed or otherwise marked, but indelibly, by an indication that could identify the number or batch code. The statement must begin with words such as “batch”, “batch number”, “batch code”, “N Batch”, “Batch C” and recognised abbreviations such as; “Lot”, “L” or “NL”. It may be followed by the identification of the same or an indication where it is located.
  5. **Expiration date mark**
     1. The expiration date mark must be placed directly by the manufacturer, indelibly, not be altered and be clearly visible.
     2. If an imported product does not indicate the expiration date based on the aforementioned conditions, the information shall be affixed by the importer or packer, according to the technical information of the manufacturer or supplier. Such information should be available by the importer and be provided if requested by the competent authority.
     3. The following rules shall apply for date marking:

1. The date will be declared using one of the following phrases and abbreviations:

* Expiration date
* Consume before
* Expires by
* Sell by date
* Expires on
* EXP
* VTO (vencimiento)
* Venc.
* V.
* Cad.
* Ven.
* Or any other phrase that clearly indicates to the consumer the expiration date of the product.

1. The phrases prescribed in paragraph 5.9.3 shall be accompanied by:

* the date itself; or
* a reference to where the date appears.

1. This shall consist of at least:

* day, month and year for products with an expiration date not exceeding three months;
* month and year for products with an expiration date of more than three months. If the month is December it is enough to indicate the year, in which case it should be expressed with four digits.

1. The day, month and year shall be declared in numerical order not encoded, separated by hyphens, dot or forward slash, except that the month may be indicated by letters, including the abbreviated three-letter format. Furthermore the use of spaces is allowed, and if the date is expressed in alphanumeric form, no separation is required. One is able to change the order of the day and month, as long as the month is expressed in letters or its respective abbreviation.
2. If this date is not indicated in the aforementioned conditions the format should be adjusted and placed by the importer.
3. The indication of the date of durability, maturity or expiration for alcoholic beverages containing 10% or more alcohol by volume is not required.
4. Distilled alcoholic beverages containing alcohol less 10% alc./vol., as well as beverages containing animal milk, egg or any other ingredient that return to perishable product must state the expiration date (month and year) in a visible location on the label, which may be expressed as indicated in paragraph i) of this section.
   1. **Country of origin**
      1. The country of origin of the distilled alcoholic beverage must be stated.
      2. When a distilled alcoholic beverage undergoes processing in a second country which changes its nature, the country in which the processing is performed shall be considered as the country of origin for labelling purposes.
5. **REFERENCES**
6. CODEX Standard 1-1985 (Rev. 1-1991 and amended in its 23rd,24th,26th,28th,31st and 33rd sessions 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2008 and 2010). GENERAL STANDARD OF THE CODEX FOR THE LABELLING OF PREVIOUSLY PACKAGED FOODS.
7. Standard for Alcoholic Beverages. Labelling Part 1. Labelling of Distilled Beverages COGUANOR NGO 33 002 h1: 99
8. **MONITORING AND VERIFICATION**

The monitoring and verification of this technical regulation in the territory of the countries is for the ministry or competent authority in accordance with its law.

**--END OF THE TECHNICAL REGULATION--**

1. The legislation for the specifications of the aging process of each State party shall apply. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the States may request declaration on the suggested price, as set out in their national legislation. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The wording of the precautionary caption or warning may differ according to the laws of each country, provided it does not contradict the provisions of this paragraph [↑](#footnote-ref-3)