

Product Testing Parameter Guidelines – Beer

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 4.0% ABV or less | 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% ABV or greater | 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 |
| Sugar | Less than or equal to 40 g/L | N/A | Greater than 40 g/L | Limit 4% (40 g/L) |
| Ethyl Carbamate - products under 8.5% ABV | Less than or equal to 15 $\mu\text{g/L}$ | N/A | Greater than 15 $\mu\text{g/L}$ | N/A |
| Ethyl Carbamate - products over 8.5% ABV | Less than or equal to 30 $\mu\text{g/L}$ | N/A | Greater than 30 $\mu\text{g/L}$ | N/A |
| Arsenic | Less than or equal to 100 $\mu\text{g/L}$ | N/A | Greater than 100 $\mu\text{g/L}$ | Limit 100 $\mu\text{g/L}$ |
| Cadmium | Less than or equal to 20 $\mu\text{g/L}$ | N/A | Greater than 20 $\mu\text{g/L}$ | Limit 20 $\mu\text{g/L}$ |
| Cobalt | Less than or equal to 20 $\mu\text{g/L}$ | N/A | Greater than 20 $\mu\text{g/L}$ | Limit 20 $\mu\text{g/L}$ |
| Lead | Less than or equal to 200 $\mu\text{g/L}$ | N/A | Greater than 200 $\mu\text{g/L}$ | Limit 200 $\mu\text{g/L}$ |
| Synthetic Dyes | Not Present | N/A | Present | No Synthetic Dyes |
| Caffeine* | Less than or equal to 30 mg per serving | N/A | Greater than 30 mg per serving | N/A |

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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

* Serving defined as complete contents of single-serve items or 75 ml, whichever is greater.

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