

Issued February 26, 2020

Craft Bulletins are issued on an as needed basis. The information is primarily intended for Saskatchewan craft alcohol producers.

Alcohol by Volume (ABV) tolerances

Hello Craft Producers,

It has come to SLGA's attention that some Saskatchewan craft producers may be unfamiliar with the Canadian industry-standard Alcohol by Volume (ABV) tolerances.

This information is being distributed as a reminder regarding acceptable Alcohol by Volume (ABV) tolerances when actual alcohol content in your products is compared to the declared alcohol content (ie: on the product label).

The Canadian Association of Liquor Jurisdictions (CALJ) Alcohol by Volume (ABV) tolerances are:

Table Wine:	± 1.0% for all table wines regardless of alcohol content
Fortified Wine (e.g., Ports, Sherries):	± 0.5%
Cider:	± 0.5% for declared alcohol in the range of 2.5% to 5.5% ± 1.0% for declared alcohol in the range of 5.6% to 13.0%
Beer:	± 0.5% for declared alcohol in the range of up to 5.5% ± 1.0% for declared alcohol of 5.6% or greater
Spirits:	± 0.3%
Miscellaneous products (e.g. coolers, ready-to-drink):	± 0.5%

Additionally, the *LCBO Guidelines for Chemical Analysis* document outlines the chemicals that are tested when you submit your product for a Certificate of Analysis (CoA). The document also specifies the maximum concentration allowed for each chemical, which is Canadian industry-standard. The LCBO document is available at the following link: <http://www.doingbusinesswithlcbo.com/tro/Packaging-Quality/ProductPackagingStandards.shtml>

It's important to note that if a product does not meet acceptable tolerances (as outlined above), it will typically result in a product recall and sales of the product being suspended. Producers should have appropriate batch processes in place to limit risk in this area. The absence of effective batch processes, could also result in all associated product being recalled.

If you have questions or require clarification, please contact Justin Moen, Director, Craft Liquor Program by email at jmoen@slga.gov.sk.ca or phone 306-787-4739.