



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY SECRETARIAT

**REGIONAL HARMONIZATION MEETING OF EASC/TC 019 ON
SUGAR AND SUGAR PRODUCTS**

26th TO 30th AUGUST 2024

CITY HILL HOTEL – BUJUMBURA, BURUNDI

REPORT OF THE MEETING

EAC SECRETARIAT

Arusha, Tanzania

August 2024

M.R.  F.M. 

**REGIONAL HARMONIZATION MEETING OF EAC/TC 019 ON SUGAR
AND SUGAR PRODUCTS
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REPORT OF THE MEETING

1.0 Introduction

The regional harmonisation meeting of EASC /TC 019 on Sugar and sugar products was convened by the EAC Secretariat in accordance with the EAC calendar of activities for July – September 2024 with support from Partner States. The Republic of Burundi hosted the meeting at City Hill hotel, Bujumbura.

The meeting was attended by delegates from the six (6) Partner States namely: Republic of Burundi, Republic of Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania and Republic of Uganda with virtual participation by the Republic of Rwanda and Republic of South Sudan.

The list of participants is here-to attached as ***Annex I***.

The meeting discussed comments received from Partner States on the six Draft East African Standards below after national consultation stage:

- i) WDEAS 17-2024 methods for chemical analysis of sugar – specification
- ii) WDEAS 349:2024 Liquid glucose (glucose syrup) – Specification
- iii) WDEAS 350:2024 Hard-boiled sweets – Specification
- iv) WDEAS 749 Brown sugars — Specification
- v) WDEAS 818-2024 Sugar cane Jaggery specification
- vi) WDEAS 819:2024 Molasses for industrial use – Specification

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1.1 Constitution of the Bureau

As provided for in the EAC Principles and Procedures for harmonization of standards, the meeting was chaired by Mr. Ndarubayemwo Jean Bosco, Ministry of East African Community Affairs, Youth, Sport and Culture, Advisor on Standards , Republic of Burundi while Mr. Eric Ruracenyeka, Standards Officer from Burundi Bureau of Standards (BBN) was the Technical Secretary.

2.0 OPENING REMARKS

2.1 Welcome and opening remarks by Hosting Country

Mr MISIGARO Siméon, Head Standard Division on behalf of the Managing Director of Burundi Bureau of Standards, welcomed delegates to the meeting. He emphasised that Sugar and sugar products are vital products to the economies of the EAC region and therefore the harmonization of these standards will have a large positive impact in reducing non-tariff barriers. He further noted that for the consumer protection, market access and competitiveness purposes, we must improve the quality of our products through standards development and standards implementation.

He observed that in the East African region, the aim of harmonization of standards is to protect humanity and make products and services competitive on International markets. He noted that several categories of expertise from Partner States were represented in the meeting.

He urged the delegates to contribute efficiently and use their scientific expertise and experience to collaborate mutually and work as East African Community. He noted that at the end of the meeting the technical documents based on consensus shall be generated in order to facilitate trade and protect the consumers and environment. He concluded by wishing all delegates fruitful deliberations and officially opened the meeting.

Mr R  FM y ²

2.2. Remarks by Chair

The Chair, Ndarubayemwo Jean Bosco welcomed the members to the meeting, acknowledging the delay in starting due to technical issues. He encouraged the members to give full attention to the discussions in order to ensure that all envisaged objectives are achieved. The chair assured members that all agenda items shall be completed within the set timelines. He wished all members fruitful deliberations.

3.0 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as amended and is hereto attached as **Annex II**.

4.0 Technical discussions on Draft East African standards on Sugar and sugar products

The meeting considered the comments on the six Draft East African Standards received from different Partner States.

The changes made on the documents are given in clause 4.1 and all changes are found in the form of tracked changed documents, hereto attached as **Annex III**. Clean copies of the Draft East African Standards are hereto attached as **Annex IV**

4.1 Changes

The changes in the table below were made to the Draft East African Standards.

Clause	Observation	Agreed changes
WDEAS 17: 2024 – Methods for chemical analysis of sugar - Specifications		
		The meeting proposed withdrawal of the draft standard and recommended that Partner States should adopt the available applicable recognized international test methods from ICUMSA and ISO during chemical analysis of sugar

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WDEAS 349:2024 Liquid glucose (glucose syrup) – Specification

Clause	Observation	Agreed changes																
1. Scope	The scope was rephrased for clarity	The scope to read; “This Draft East African Standard specifies the requirements, sampling and methods of test for liquid glucose (glucose syrup) for direct human consumption or further processing”.																
2. Normative references	Normative references were updated	Normative references were updated as agreed																
3. Requirements	The clause 4.2.1 under specific requirement was deleted for easy use of the standard and 4.2.2 rephrased	The clause 4.2.1 deleted and 4.2.2 rephrased to read “liquid glucose shall comply with the specific requirements given in Table 1.”																
4. Table 1	The test methods for Sulphated ash and pH were updated	The new table on Specific requirements for liquid glucose to read as below; Table 1 —Specific requirements for liquid glucose <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S/N</th> <th>Characteristic</th> <th>Requirement</th> <th>Test Methods</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>i.</td> <td>Dextrose Equivalent (DE) value, % m/m dry basis, min.</td> <td>20</td> <td>ISO 5377</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ii.</td> <td>Total solids, % m/m, min.</td> <td>70</td> <td>ISO 1743</td> </tr> <tr> <td>iii.</td> <td>Sulphated ash, % m/m, max.</td> <td>1.0</td> <td>ICUMSA GS 3-11(2000)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	S/N	Characteristic	Requirement	Test Methods	i.	Dextrose Equivalent (DE) value, % m/m dry basis, min.	20	ISO 5377	ii.	Total solids, % m/m, min.	70	ISO 1743	iii.	Sulphated ash, % m/m, max.	1.0	ICUMSA GS 3-11(2000)
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			iv.	pH	4.5 - 5.5		Annex A
			v.	Sulphur dioxide, mg/kg, max.	400		ISO 5379
5. Food additives	The general standard for Food additive was cross referenced	The clause rephrased to read; "Only the food additives permitted in CXS 192 shall be used"					
6. Heavy metals	The general standard on contaminants and toxins in food and feed was cross referenced	The clause rephrased to read; "Liquid glucose shall comply with the maximum levels for heavy metals in accordance to CXS 193"					
7. Table 2	A new Microorganism is added to the table and the limits to be absent. Test methods were updated	The new table on Microbiological limits for liquid glucose to read as below; Table 2 — Microbiological limits for liquid glucose					
			S/N	Microorganisms	Limit		Test methods
			i.	Total aerobic count, cfu/g, max.	100		ISO 4833-1
			ii.	Yeast and moulds, cfu/g, max.	10		ISO 21527-1
			iii.	Escherichia coli, cfu/g	Absent		ISO 16649 - 2
			iv.	Salmonella, spp in 25 g	Absent		ISO 6579 - 1
			v.	Staphylococcus aureus	Absent		ISO 6888 - 1
8. Packaging	The underlying	The new change read;					

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	text under Packaging was reviewed for clarity	“Liquid glucose shall be packaged in leak-proof containers that are food grade and ensure product safety and integrity.”
9.Sampling	The general standard for Sampling was adopted and the rest deleted	The clause rephrased to read; “Glucose syrup shall be sampled in accordance with CXG 50”

DEAS 350:2024 Hard-boiled sweets — Specification		
Clause	Observation	Agreed changes
1. Scope	The scope was rephrased for clarity	The scope to read; “This draft East African Standard specifies requirements, sampling and methods of test for hard-boiled sweets for direct human consumption.”
2. Normative references	Normative references were updated	Normative references were updated as agreed
3. Product description	To align with EAS standards format substitute the description with Terms and definition	Define terms used in this documents To read 3.1. Hard boiled sweets Super cooled non-crystalline liquids, which are so far below their melting point or softening point that they have assumed solid properties without crystallizing. They are a combination of sucrose and glucose syrup or sucrose and invert sugar with or without addition of optional ingredients given under 4.1.3 3.2. Plain hard boiled sweets Simple, hard confection products made primarily from sugar and glucose syrup. They are characterized by their clear appearance, hard

M.R.  F.M. 

		<p>texture, and straightforward sweet taste, making them a classic, long-lasting treat characterised by clear or pulled to incorporate air to cause opaqueness and shine, or the composition adjusted so as to grain in a desired length of time</p> <p>3.3 Modified hard boiled sweets A versatile and enhanced version of traditional hard candies, featuring variations in ingredients, textures, flavours, and potential functional benefits. These modifications allow for a more diverse range of products that cater to different consumer preferences and needs.</p>
4. product types	For clarity and to avoid any misreading of the standard this clause has been removed from the standard to Annex	Product types to be Annex C
5. Optional Ingredients	Gum base may be used in the formulation of hard-boiled sweets and should be included in the list of optional ingredients	A new optional ingredient is added in the list as follows: m) gum base

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6. Table 1	The title of the table was erroneous and have been amended	The new title to read "Table 1 — Specific requirements for hard boiled sweets"																				
7. Food additives	The general standard for Food additive was cross referenced	The clause rephrased to read; "Only the food additives permitted in CXS 192 shall be used"																				
8. Heavy metals	The general standard for contaminants and toxins in food and feed was cross referenced	The clause rephrased to read; "hard boiled sweets shall comply with the maximum levels for heavy metals in accordance to CXS 193"																				
9. Table 2	For clarity substitute sugar with sweet in the title and salmonella to be spp in 25 g	<p>The new table on Microbiological limits for hard boiled sweets to read as below;</p> <p>Table 2 — Microbiological limits for hard boiled sweets</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S/N</th> <th>Characteristic</th> <th>Requirement</th> <th>Test method</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>i)</td> <td>Yeast and moulds, cfu per g, max</td> <td>10</td> <td>ISO 21527-2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ii)</td> <td><i>E. coli</i>, cfu per g</td> <td>Absent</td> <td>ISO 16649-2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>iii)</td> <td><i>S. aureus</i>, cfu per g</td> <td>Absent</td> <td>ISO 6888 - 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>iv)</td> <td><i>Salmonella</i>, spp in 25 g,</td> <td>Absent</td> <td>ISO 6579 - 1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	S/N	Characteristic	Requirement	Test method	i)	Yeast and moulds, cfu per g, max	10	ISO 21527-2	ii)	<i>E. coli</i> , cfu per g	Absent	ISO 16649-2	iii)	<i>S. aureus</i> , cfu per g	Absent	ISO 6888 - 1	iv)	<i>Salmonella</i> , spp in 25 g,	Absent	ISO 6579 - 1
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10. Sampling	The general standard for Sampling was adopted and the rest deleted	The new clause to read "hard boiled sweets shall be sampled in accordance with CXG 50"
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WDEAS 749:2024 Brown sugars — Specification		
Clause	Observation	Agreed changes
1. Scope	The scope was rephrased for clarity	The scope to read; "This Draft East African Standard specifies the requirements, sampling and methods of test for light brown and brown sugar for direct human consumption or further processing." This standard does not apply to soft brown sugars
2. Normative references	Normative references were updated	Normative references were updated as agreed
3. Term and definition	3.1. brown sugar have been rephrased for clarity	The term to read "the sugar derived from sugar cane or sugar beet by partial purification of raw sugar followed by subsequent drying and intended for direct human consumption."
4. Compositional requirement	For consistence with other EAS standards Replace Compositional requirements with specific requirements	The title to read "Specific requirements"
4. Table 1	Test methods were updated	The new table on Specific requirements for brown sugar to read as below:

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		Table 1 — Specific requirements for brown sugar			
S No	Characteristic	Requirement/limits		Methods of test	
		Light brown	brown		
i.	Polarisation, °Z, min.	99.2	99.0	ICUMSA Method GS 1-1(2022)	
ii	Invert sugar content, % m/m, max.	0.2		ICUMSA Method GS 2-6 (2007),	
iii.	Conductivity ashes, % m/m, max.	0.3		ICUMSA Method GS 1-13(1994)	
iv.	Moisture content (loss on drying for 3 h at 105 °C ± 2 °C), max.	0.15	0.2	ICUMSA Method GS 2-15 (2007)	
v.	Colour, in ICUMSA units, max	700	1300	ICUMSA Method GS 1-7 (2024)	
vi	Sulphur dioxide, mg/kg, max.	20		ICUMSA GS 2-35 (2024)	
vii	Water insoluble matter, mg/kg, max.	250		ICUMSA Method GS 2-19 (2007)	
5. Food additives	The general standard for Food additive was cross referenced	The clause rephrased to read; “Only the food additives permitted in CXS 192 shall be used”			
6. Hygiene	The clause on hygiene rephrased	The clause rephrased to read; “Brown sugar shall be prepared and handled in accordance with EAS 39 and shall comply with microbiological limits specified in Table 2.”			
7. Table 2	Table 2 — Microbiological	The new table on Microbiological limits for brown sugar to read as			

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	limits for brown sugar amended and test methods updated	below:															
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Microbiological parameter</th> <th>Limits</th> <th>Method of test</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total Plate Count (mesophylic), cfu/g, max</td> <td>10³</td> <td>ISO 4833-1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yeast and moulds, cfu/g, max</td> <td>50</td> <td>ISO 21527-2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Escherichia coli, cfu,/g</td> <td>Absent</td> <td>ISO 16649-2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Salmonella, in 25 g</td> <td>Absent</td> <td>ISO 6579 - 1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Microbiological parameter	Limits	Method of test	Total Plate Count (mesophylic), cfu/g, max	10 ³	ISO 4833-1	Yeast and moulds, cfu/g, max	50	ISO 21527-2	Escherichia coli, cfu,/g	Absent	ISO 16649-2	Salmonella, in 25 g	Absent	ISO 6579 - 1
		Microbiological parameter	Limits	Method of test													
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Escherichia coli, cfu,/g	Absent	ISO 16649-2															
Salmonella, in 25 g	Absent	ISO 6579 - 1															
9.Sampling	The general standard for Sampling was adopted and the rest deleted	The clause rephrased to read; “brown sugar shall be sampled in accordance with CXG 50”															

DEAS 818 : 2024 Sugar cane Jaggery specification — Specification		
Clause	Observation	Agreed changes
1. Scope	The scope was rephrased for clarity	The scope to read; “This draft East African Standard specifies requirements, methods of test and sampling for sugar cane jaggery”
2. Normative references	Normative references were updated	Normative references were updated as agreed
3. Food additives	The general standard for Food additive was cross	The clause rephrased to read; “Only the food additives permitted in CXS 192 shall be used”

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	referenced	
4. Heavy metals	The general standard for contaminants and toxins in food and feeds was cross referenced	The clause rephrased to read; “Sugar cane jaggery shall comply with the maximum levels for heavy metals in accordance to CXS 193”
5. Sampling	The general standard for Sampling was adopted and the rest deleted	The new clause to read “Sugar cane jaggery shall be sampled in accordance with CXG 50”

WDEAS 819: 2024 Molasses for Industrial use — Specification											
Clause	Observation	Agreed changes									
1. Scope	The scope was rephrased for clarity	The scope to read; “This draft East African Standard specifies requirements, methods of test and sampling for molasses for industrial use. This standard does not cover molasses as a direct feed for livestock”									
2. Normative references	Normative references were updated	Normative references were updated as agreed									
3. Table 1	The title of the table was amended et test method updated	The new title to read “Table 1 — Specific requirements for molasses”									
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S.NO.</th> <th>Parameters</th> <th>Requirements</th> <th>Methods of test</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>i.</td> <td>Standard Brix degree at 20 °C.</td> <td>75</td> <td>Annex A</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		S.NO.	Parameters	Requirements	Methods of test	i.	Standard Brix degree at 20 °C.	75	Annex A
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viii.	Sulphur dioxide, as SO ₂ , ppm, max.	400	ISO 5379																											
4. Heavy metals	The general standard for contaminants and toxins in food and feeds was cross referenced	The clause rephrased to read; “molasses shall comply with the maximum levels for heavy metals in accordance to CXS 193”																												
5. Sampling	The general standard for Sampling was adopted and the rest deleted	The new clause to read “molasses shall be sampled in accordance with CXG 50”																												

5.0. Future work

The following new work items were identified as future work:

- i) EAS 820: 2014 Dextrose monohydrate (glucose powder) – Specification
- ii) Powder icing sugar – Specification (Uganda)
- iii) Sugar cane juice – Specification (Uganda)

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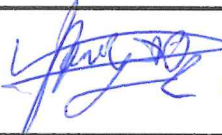
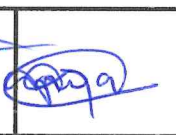


- iv) Dark sweets and blackstrap molasses – Specifications (Uganda)
- v) Sugar confectionery — Part 2: Caramel, toffees and Fudge (Kenya)
- vi) Edible sugar cane stem - Specification (Uganda)
- vii) Fruit punch sugar tablet sweets – Specification (Uganda)
- viii) Sugar syrup – Specification (Kenya)

6.0. Recommendations

The meeting recommended that:

- i) The five draft East African Standards discussed to proceed for Public review and notification to WTO
- ii) The SMC to process the withdrawal of EAS 17
- iii) Partner States to initiate the development of new work items by providing forms A

Signed on the 30th day of August 2024 by the head of delegations:

		Attended Virtually	Attended Virtually		
Eric Ruracenyeka THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI	George Kiminza THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA	Tunga Ndibwami Elsa THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA	William Swaka Alesio Lako THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN	Fatuma Mauniko THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA	Rehema Meeme THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA