

The low and no category - Mapping of national initiatives on the low- and no category – Table

I. Background:

As tasked by the CP.MI, spiritsEUROPE set up a sub-group to further develop the [draft spiritsEUROPE guidelines for the labelling of the low-and no category](#). One of the action points agreed on during the sub-group's first call on 14 January was the mapping of national initiatives and legislation on the low-and no category with the help of the spiritsEUROPE National Associations.

The questions below were identified and spiritsEUROPE's National Associations are invited to please complete their country's profile below by 7 February 2020.

Your Country/ NAs	Which rules on the low/no category exist in MS?	How is low alcohol defined?	How is no-alcoholic defined?	Are there any other discussions of note on national level?
Austria	Alcohol free beer: not more than 0,5 % vol (defined in Chapter B 13 "Beer" of the Codex Alimentarius Austriacus) Alcohol free wine and low alcohol wine: <u>Weingesetz 2009</u> (§ 14)	No general definition Wine: > 0,5 % vol, not more than 5,0 % vol	No general definition Wine: < 0,5 % vol	The issue of non-alcoholic/low alcoholic spirits was discussed in the last meeting of the Austrian spirits industry in November 2019.
Belgium	Law of 21 December 2009 on the excise system of soft drinks and coffee.	No legislation concerning the low alcohol	The main thing is that for beer the alcoholic volume is limited to 0.5% and for wine and spirits the limit is 1.2% alc vol.	The JEP (body advertising) informed BE that it has received consumer complaints who have consumed alcoholic beverages that are legally labelled as 'alcohol-free' but actually contain alcohol. It is therefore very likely that in the long term we will be faced with requests to amend the legislation in force.
Bulgaria	The only rule to apply is article 12, point P from additional provisions in the Food Law (after article 56), which defines beer as food	No legal definition of alcohol drinks containing alcohol are defined as high-alcoholic drinks if they have 15% and more alc. Volume and as low alcoholic drinks if they have alc. Volume below 15%	No special definition but article 12, point P, which stays in Bulgarian Food Law.	N/A

Cyprus	<i>No information submitted</i>			
Czech Republic	The Czech Law 248/2018	There is clear definition for all categories of alcohol drinks e.g. The beer is foam drink which was prepared from malt, water and hops which contains except of ethanol and CO2 created by fermentation also some non-fermented extract. The malt is possible replaced up to 1/3 of total content by sugar or starch. The alcohol content of flavoured beers is possible to increase by spirits or other alcohol drinks	Non-alcoholic drink is the drink which contain maximal 0,5% alc. vol /20oC.	No in the current time. New rules are very fresh – dated 2018.
Finland	<p>We are following the directive 1169/2011:</p> <p>-Alcoholic beverage means a beverage containing more than 1.2% by volume of ethyl alcohol; (Finnish Alcohol Law 1102/2017, 3 §)</p> <p>-Definition to “<i>Alcohol reduced</i>” = the amount of alcohol has been reduced by at least 30% compared to the corresponding other beverage. (EU 1925/2006)</p> <p>-Alcohol-free beer: according to the CN nomenclature approved by the European Union, it is allowed to call a product <i>non-alcoholic beer</i> for</p>	Definition to “Alcohol reduced” = the amount of alcohol has been reduced by at least 30% compared to the corresponding other beverage. (EU 1925/2006)	<p>Alcohol-free beer: according to the CN nomenclature approved by the European Union, it is allowed to call a product <i>non-alcoholic beer</i> for beverages with an alcoholic strength not exceeding 0,5% vol</p> <p>If beer is claimed to be non-alcoholic, the alcoholic strength of the beverage should always be stated on the package even if it is zero.</p>	We’re following the EU-discussion about wines with alcohol reduced and alcohol-free wines, as the word wine can’t officially be used yet. The low/no wine is an interesting category; our new alcohol act made it possible to sell products that are wine-based and alcohol reduced max. 5.5 % vol., because they can be sold in groceries instead of the monopoly.

	beverages with an alcoholic strength not exceeding 0,5% vol If beer is claimed to be non-alcoholic, the alcoholic strength of the beverage should always be stated on the package even if it is zero.			
France	Wine: No regulatory definition but jurisprudence from 1993 on the acceptance of “ <i>vin sans alcool</i> ” as a loyal legal denomination for a wine that has been de-alcoholised. Decree defining non-alcoholic beer: 3.“ <i>La dénomination "bière sans alcool" est réservée à la bière qui présente un titre alcoométrique acquis inférieur ou égal à 1,2 p. 100 en volume, à la suite d'une désalcoolisation ou d'un début de fermentation.</i> ”= The use of the sales denomination of “free-alcohol beer” is restricted to beer that has an abv below or equal to 1.2%, following a de-alcoholization or the beginning of a fermentation.	No regulatory definition as we know of.	Below or equal to 1,2% « <i>Les boissons alcooliques s'entendent des boissons dont le titre alcoométrique excède 1,2 %</i> »= alcoholic beverages are beverages with an abv that doesn't exceed 1,2%”	
Germany		No definition	Alcohol free can be used to describe products with up to 0.3 % alc.	
Greece	<i>No information submitted</i>			
Hungary	Beer references are defined in the Hungarian Food Quality book (Magyar Élelmiszerkönyv - Codex	Alcohol ‘poor’ beer: 0,51-1,50% Low alcohol content beer: 1,51-2,80%	Alcohol free beer: max. 0,50%	The name of the product must include "beer" or "beer". The term "flavored beer" and the term referring to its color.

	Alimentarius Hungaricus) Beer regulation number: 2-702.			<p>The alcoholic strength must be mentioned in relation to the name.</p> <p>The name of flavored beers shall also include the word "taste", "color" or other characteristic.</p> <p>The manufacturer of the product may refer to the product with an original extract content of at least 11% as a "quality".</p> <p>Flavored beer: Beer that can be flavored with or without other hops as a flavor.</p> <p>Non-alcoholic beer made using the aroma necessary to form the character of a beer is not considered aromatised beer.</p>
Ireland	<p>Irish Law considers alcohol free products as having no more than 0.5% ABV</p> <p><u>UPDATE September 2020:</u></p> <p>FSAI guidelines for marketing and labelling of Irish Gin. These are official, government backed guidelines that apply in ROI now. "Other marketing terms such as 'low alcohol' products that do not meet the legal definition of gin, as defined in Section 5, may not bear the word 'gin' on the label or in the marketing, except for sloe gin and gin liqueurs as also defined in this document. Therefore, other marketing terms such as 'low</p>	Not defined in Irish Law, however it appears to be accepted by Irish state agencies that low alcohol is 1.2% ABV or below	Not defined	<p>This year, the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI) and the Advertising Standards Authority of Ireland (ASAI) published guidance on the advertisement of low and no alcohol products following engagement with Drinks Ireland Beer.</p>

	alcohol' or 'no alcohol' should not be used in the labelling or marketing of gin."			
Italy	Law n.125/2001 classifies as "alcohol beverage" every drink with min. 1,2% abv. Under this level a product may be considered "non-alcoholic drink"	We haven't such a definition	DPR 719/1958 defines that the maximum alcohol limit which may be contained in a non-alcoholic drink shall be set at 1%vol. It does not define a product category but gives a tolerance as a term of reference	
Latvia	<i>No information submitted</i>			
Malta	<i>No information Submitted</i>			
Netherlands	Commodities Act (Art 7c and d) Licensing and Catering Act (art 1)	Low-alcoholic beer may only be used for beer that contains more than 0.1% alc but no more than 1.2& alc.	Non-alcoholic beer may only be used for beer that contains no more than 0.1% alc .	Spirit drink: alcoholic drink that consists of at least 15% alc and more with the exception of wine.
Poland	Alcohol Bill from 26.10.1982 Excise duty bill from 06.12.2008	Art. 10 legal acts affecting the structure of prices of alcoholic beverages should serve to limit the consumption of these beverages and change the structure of their consumption in favour of beverages with a low percentage of alcohol. – not stated what is a low percentage of alcohol; Not applicable	1.Ethyl alcohol is subject to excise tax with the ABV above 1,2% 2. Beer is a subject to excise tax with the ABV above 0,5% 3 Wine is subject to excise tax with the ABV above 1,2%	Only beer can be advertised, so low an no alcohol beer also. The rest of alcoholic beverages cannot be advertised, also drinks not containing alcohol but within the same brand or with similar trade mark cannot be advertised, promoted etc. Discussion on national level about the possibility of sale and advertising of 0% beer to minors.

<p>Portugal</p>	<p>WINE- PORTARIA N.º 26/2017 CHAPTER II - Mandatory indications</p> <p>Article 9 -Wines and musts 2 - When applicable, the following sale designations are used for the labelling and presentation of wine products:</p> <p>a. Non-alcoholic wine - a drink with an acquired alcoholic strength of not more than 0.5% vol. obtained exclusively from wines submitted to specific dealcoholisation treatments according to the legislation in force.</p> <p>b. Partially De-Alcoholised Wine - a drink that has been obtained exclusively from wines subjected to a specific dealcoholisation treatments and has an acquired alcoholic strength greater than 0.5% vol. and less than the acquired alcoholic strength established for the product category concerned.</p> <p>Article 13 –Traditional terms Without prejudice to specific provisions established in the product specifications entitled to DO or IG, the following traditional terms may be used in the labelling of DO or IG wine:</p> <p>l) «Ligeiro» or «Baixo Grau» term reserved for wine with a minimum alcoholic strength of 10.5% vol. or</p>	<p>Partially De-Alcoholised Wine : A drink that has been obtained exclusively from wines subjected to a specific de-alcoholisation treatments and has an acquired alcoholic strength greater than 0.5% vol. and less than the acquired alcoholic strength established for the product category concerned.</p> <p>«low-alcohol beer»: The product corresponding to the definition of paragraph 2 whose alcohol content is greater than 0.5% but less than or equal to 1.2% vol .;</p>	<p>Non-alcoholic wine: A drink with an acquired alcoholic strength of not more than 0.5% vol. obtained exclusively from wines submitted to specific de-alcoholisation treatments according to the legislation in force.</p> <p><i>«Non-alcoholic Beer»:</i> the product corresponding to the definition of paragraph 2 whose alcohol content is equal to or less than 0.5% vol.;</p>	
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	<p>less the total acidity expressed in tartaric acid being equal to or greater than 4.5 g / l and the remaining analytical parameters are in accordance with the values defined for wines in general; PORTARIA Nº1/96</p> <p>a) «Non-alcoholic Beer» - the product corresponding to the definition of paragraph 2 whose alcohol content is equal to or less than 0.5% vol.;</p> <p>b) «low-alcohol beer» - the product corresponding to the definition of paragraph 2 whose alcohol content is greater than 0.5% but less than or equal to 1.2% vol. ;</p>			
Romania	<i>No information submitted</i>			
Slovakia	<i>No information submitted</i>			
SPAIN Espirituosos	<p>Real Decreto 678/2016 Normas de calidad de la Cerveza https://www.boe.es/diario_boe/txt.php?id=BOE-A-2016-11952</p>	Between 1 -3 % alcohol strength in volume	Less than 1% of alcohol strength in volume	No
Sweden/SVL	<p>In the Swedish Alcohol Act there is a general definition of “<i>alkoholdryck</i>” (alcoholic beverage), which means a beverage with an alcoholic strength exceeding 2,25 %vol. Furthermore, there is a definition of “<i>lättdryck</i>”, which means a</p>		<p>The Swedish retail monopoly, Systembolaget, applies their own definitions. “Alcohol-free” means beverages containing from zero %vol. up to and including 0,5 %vol. In addition, they have a category for beverages containing 0,0%vol., which</p>	

	<p>beverage that is alcohol-free or has an alcoholic strength of max. 2,25 %vol. Apart from these 2 definitions, there are no specific rules on how to label “non-alcoholic” or “low-alcoholic” beverages.</p>		<p>are for beverages that are “<i>helt alkoholfria</i>” (completely alcohol-free) https://www.systembolaget.se/fakta-och-nyheter/markningar/alkoholfritt/</p>	
<p>UK SWA</p>	<p>Low Alcohol Descriptors Guidance 2018 (Dept Health & Social Care)</p>	<p>Low alcohol – the drink must be 1.2% alcohol by volume (abv) or below and an indication of its maximum abv should be included on the label.</p>	<p>Alcohol free – this should only be applied to a drink from which the alcohol has been extracted if it contains no more than 0.05% abv, and the products should also include the abv (or state that they contain no alcohol) on the label in order to use the descriptor.</p> <p>Non-alcoholic – this should not be used in conjunction with a name commonly associated with an alcoholic drink. There is an exception for non-alcoholic wine where it is derived from unfermented grape juice and is intended exclusively for communion or sacramental use. The labelling or advertising of these non-alcoholic wine should make it clear that it is exclusively for such use.</p> <p>De-alcoholised – this term should only be applied to a drink from which the alcohol has been extracted if it contains no more than 0.5% abv and the product should also include an indication of its</p>	<p>Note: The descriptors can be used with the majority of drink categories, although their use is restricted for wines and spirits and spirit mixers. Public Health England has completed a review of the evidence on moving the alcohol-free descriptor from 0.05% to 0.5%. This proposed change will go out to consultation later this year.</p> <p>These terms are problematic and confusing in practice; they are often used interchangeably. We are debating this with members and as basic propositions we are considering proposals that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.The term “alcohol free” being available for all products below 0.5% abv; 2.The requirement to have removed alcohol to be deleted, so that products reaching a lower abv by other means can use the alcohol-free term; 3.We’re not sure whether the term “non-alcoholic” is redundant or needs to be available for wider use than communion wine; 4.If alcohol has been removed, then producers should be able to describe this,

			alcoholic strength (or state that it contains no alcohol).	but we think “dealcoholised” itself is not a helpful term for consumers; 5.We’re seeking clarity around how spirits-based or distilled products can be described, at <15% and at <1.2% abv, particularly where category terms are at risk of abuse.
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