

# Alcoholic drinks measures for trade use

Trading Standards Information

[www.southwark.gov.uk](http://www.southwark.gov.uk)

## 1. Introduction

If you are a publican or operate a licensed restaurant etc. there are legal requirements, including licence conditions, concerning the way in which certain non pre-packed alcoholic drinks are measured. There are also requirements concerning the display of notices stating which measures are available. This leaflet explains the legal requirements concerning draught beer and cider, spirits and wine.

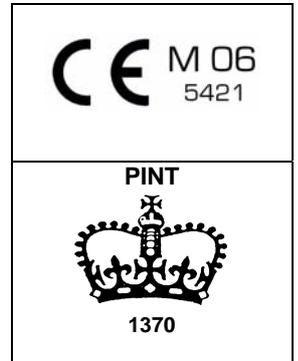
## 2. Draught beer and cider

This may only be sold in quantities of  $\frac{1}{3}$  pint,  $\frac{2}{3}$  pint,  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint or multiples of  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint ( $\frac{1}{2}$  pints must always be available). To serve correct measures approved glasses, or beer measuring instruments must be used.

Approved glasses will either bear the CE mark, which is an EU declaration of compliance mark, or a Crown stamp, denoting it has been passed as fit for use for trade by a UK Inspector of Weights and Measures.

In both cases the mark will be accompanied by a reference number, which indicates who applied the mark, and a quantity indication (e.g. pint).

The CE mark must also be accompanied by an M mark and an indication of the year it was marked.



Stamped or CE marked pint glasses are usually of the brim type. To give the correct measure the glass must be filled to the brim. When using these the beer should not be served with an excessive head. If a customer considers the head too large it should be topped up.

The other type of glass is the lined type. These are oversize and the correct measure is denoted by a line near the top of the glass and capacity mark - these allow full measure of liquid as well as a head.

Pint glasses are often subdivided so that  $\frac{1}{2}$  pints can also be measured.

Plastic 'glasses', metal tankards, jugs or pitchers may be used but must also be CE marked / stamped.

Beer measuring instruments automatically dispense a  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint etc. If these are used there is no requirement to serve in approved glasses but the instrument must bear the Crown stamp.

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**Trading Standards** - Environment & Leisure, Hub 2, 3rd Floor, PO Box 64529, SE1P 5LX

**Call centre** - 020 7525 2000 **Email** - [tradingstandards@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:tradingstandards@southwark.gov.uk)

**Strategic Director Environment & Leisure** - Gill Davies

### 3. Gin, rum, vodka, and whisky

These may only be sold in quantities of 25ml or 35ml or multiples thereof. You cannot offer both 25ml and 35ml measures in the same premises. You must ensure either 25ml or 35ml measures are available (i.e. you cannot offer doubles only).

Where any items are used to determine the correct measure they must be of an approved type, i.e. stamped or CE marked 'thimble' type capacity measures or suitable measuring equipment. Pourers using ball bearing mechanisms should not be used.

An approved thimble measure will either bear a Crown stamp, denoting it has been passed as fit for use for trade by an Inspector of Weights and Measures, or the CE mark which is an EU declaration mark. In both cases the mark will be accompanied by a reference number which indicates who applied the mark. The CE mark must also be accompanied by an M mark and an indication of the year it was marked. An example of the marks is shown on the front page of this leaflet.

Where a stamped capacity measure is used to pour the correct amount of spirit into a glass the customer must be able to see this being done.

Suitable measuring equipment will usually consist of devices placed in mounted inverted bottles. These are commonly referred to as Optics<sup>®</sup>. These automatically dispense a pre-determined quantity. The quantity dispensed must be marked on the instrument and such equipment must bear the Crown stamp.

Whichever method is used a notice must be displayed in the premises stating in what quantities these spirits are sold. A suitable example is shown below and it should be placed where customers can easily see it before buying. Free notices are available from this Service.

<p><b>Weights and Measures Act 1985</b> Gin, rum, vodka and whisky sold for consumption here is measured in quantities of 25ml or 50ml</p>
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These quantity requirements do not apply if a customer expressly requests a different quantity as part of any mixture of liquids. Neither do they apply if any of them form a constituent in a mixture of three or more liquids, for example in a cocktail.

### 4. Other spirits

Spirits other than those mentioned above (and mixers) do not have to be sold in any particular quantities. If there is no reference to a specific quantity then stamped measures or equipment need not be used. However problems arise when equipment is used which already bears a quantity marking or where price lists and menus mention a specific quantity.

In such cases any equipment used to determine the quantity must measure in metric units and bear the Crown stamp or CE mark, so it may be more convenient to remove or obscure any references to quantity.

### 5. Wine sold by the glass

If wine is sold by the glass it may only be sold in quantities of 125ml, 175ml or multiples thereof and 125ml measures must always be available. To allow flexibility for wine tasting etc. this does not apply where wine is sold in quantities less than 75ml.

Fortified wine sold by the glass may only be sold in quantities of 50ml or 70ml or multiples thereof.

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Where any items are used to determine the correct measure they must be of an approved type, i.e. crown stamped or CE marked glasses or capacity measures or suitable measuring equipment. A stamped or CE marked glass is one which bears the marks described in section 2.

Stamped wine glasses will be of the lined type. These are oversize and the measure is denoted by a line near the top of the glass adjacent to the quantity marking.

Suitable measuring equipment will usually consist of the type commonly referred to as Optics<sup>®</sup>. These automatically dispense a pre-determined quantity. The quantity dispensed must be marked on the instrument and such equipment must also bear the Crown stamp.

Where a stamped or CE marked capacity measure is used to pour the correct amount of wine into a glass the customer must be able to see this being done.

Whichever method is used a notice must be displayed in the premises stating in what quantities wine by the glass is sold. A suitable example is shown below and it should be placed where customers can easily see it before buying. Free notices are available from this service. Alternatively the details can be given in every menu or wine list used prior to sale.

**Weights and Measures Act 1985**

Wine by the glass is measured in quantities of 125ml or 175ml

**Weights and Measures Act 1985**

Fortified wine available by the glass  
70ml

These quantity requirements do not apply when a customer expressly requests wine in a different quantity as part of any mixture of liquids.

## **6. Wine sold in carafes**

Where wine is sold in carafes which have been filled up from a bulk quantity, it may only be sold in quantities of 25cl (250ml), 50cl (500ml), 75cl (750ml) or 1 litre.

Equipment or measures used to determine the quantity should bear the Crown stamp or CE mark and be used as detailed previously.

A notice stating the quantities that wine is available in must be displayed in the premises where customers can easily see it before buying. Alternatively the details can be given in every menu or wine list used prior to sale.

These requirements do not cover wine that is pre-packed in a securely closed container regardless of whether it is decanted at the customer's request before being served.

## **7. Related matters**

The prices of food and drink should be displayed and further information on these requirements is contained in the leaflet entitled Food & drink prices.

## **8. What happens if I don't comply with these requirements?**

These requirements are detailed in Regulations and Orders made under the Weights and Measures Act 1985 and the Licensing Act 2003. Failure to comply could result in equipment being forfeited and prosecution. On conviction the courts may impose a fine of up to £2000. Breaches of licence conditions can lead to a licence review and revocation as well as a fine of up to £20,000.

## **9. Further information**

If you require further assistance on these requirements, or would like additional information leaflets, please contact us at the address given.

## 10. Suppliers of crown stamped or CE marked equipment for licensed premises

Whilst we do not recommend any particular company, the businesses shown below should stock some or all of the appropriate equipment mentioned in this leaflet. Other companies can be found in Yellow Pages under catering equipment / supplies etc.

Dentons  
2/4 Clapham High Street  
London  
SW4 7UT  
020 7622 7157

General Catering Supplies  
Tuborg House  
2A Mandrell Road  
SW2 5DL  
020 7733 7590

E J Gee Ltd  
PO Box 66  
Lingfield  
Surrey  
RH7 6UP  
01342 837655

Partyplastic (plastic glasses)  
Dukes Valley  
Windsor Road  
Gerrards Cross  
Bucks  
SL9 8SR  
01753 664210

Payne Bros (UK) Ltd  
Century House  
69-71 Old Church Road  
Romford  
RM7 0BB  
01708 766644

Booker Wholesale  
41 Battersea Park Road  
London  
SW8 5AL  
020 8946 0701

Barmans Ltd  
Saxon Way Industrial Estate  
Melbourn  
Hertfordshire  
SG8 6DN  
0845 3133352

Pattersons  
Winstone Road,  
Bristol  
BS3 2NS  
01179 341270

Pektron plc (Beer meters)  
Alfreton Rd,  
Derby,  
DE21 4AP,  
01332 832424