



**GAMBIAN STANDARD FOR NATURAL MINERAL WATERS**

**ICS No. 13.060.20**

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## DATE OF PUBLICATION

This Gambian Standard was Gazetted under the authority of the Bureau in March 2013.

## THE GAMBIA STANDARDS BUREAU

The Gambia Standards Bureau is a statutory Government specialized Agency established by The Gambia Standards Bureau Act 2010 to standardize products, methods, systems and for connected matters. Hence, the Bureau is the sole National Standardization Body. As such, it has been a member of International Standardization Bodies such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) since 2011, International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) from 2012.

The objectives of the Bureau, as specified in its Act, are to: establish and promulgate standards for imported and locally-produced goods; facilitate domestic and international trade; foster and promote standards both for industrial efficiency and advancing economic development; promote the health and safety of consumers; enhance international cooperation in relation to standards and standardization. Thus, the National Quality Policy details the responsibilities of the Bureau in Standardization, Metrology and Conformity Assessment services in Testing, Inspection and Certification.

Therefore, the functions, of the Bureau are to define, prepare, publish, modify or amend Standards Specifications as well information-dissemination of standards. In addition to providing Testing, Inspection and Certification services for goods, systems and processes independently or in relation to conformity with its Standards Mark, the Bureau also conducts training and research. In Metrology, the Bureau serves as the custodian of primary national reference measurement standards through its National Metrology Laboratories and conducts calibration of measurement devices and physical standards.

The development of Gambian Standards (GAMS) is carried out by the Bureau through Technical Committees composed of a balanced representation of stakeholders, as may be appropriate to the subject in question. The Bureau ensures that Standards are developed in accordance with the *ISO\_IEC\_Guide\_21-1\_2005: Regional or National adoption of International Standards and other International deliverables* and the *World Trade Organization Code of good practice for the preparation, adoption and application of standards*. To the greatest extent possible, Gambian Standards are aligned to or are adoptions of relevant international standards.

For further information on and copies of Gambian Standards, please contact The Gambia Standards Bureau.

## COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

The Technical Committee on National Food Standards which supervised the development of this Gambian Standard consists of representatives from the following organizations:

**National Codex, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Committee (NCSPSC)**

**Food Safety and Quality Authority of The Gambia (FSQA)**

**National Nutrition Agency (NaNA)**

**Food Technology Unit of Department of Agriculture (FTU-DOA)**

**Animal Health and Production Services (AHPS)**

**Plant Protection Services (PPS)**

**National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI)**

**National Association of Food Processors (NAFP)**

**National Poultry Farmers Association of The Gambia (NPFA)**

**National Women Farmers Association (NAWFA)**

**Consumer Protection Association of The Gambia (CPAG)**

**Jawneh and Family Cashew Farm (JFCF)**

**Agribusiness Services and Production Association (ASPA)**

**Gambia Livestock Marketing Agency (GLMA)**

**Fisheries Department**

**Association of Fishing Companies**

## FOREWORD

The Gambia Standards Bureau (TGSB), in conformity with international best practice, coopted the National CODEX, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Committee (NCSPSC) as its Technical Committee (TC) on Food Standards. The Secretariat for this TC is the Bureau. This TC, with guidance of the Bureau, adopted the CODEX Standard for Natural Mineral Waters. The Procedure for adoption was the *ISO/IEC Guide 21-1 - Regional or national adoption of International Standards and other International Deliverables - Part 1: Adoption of International Standards*. The method of adoption chosen was Direct Adoption.

This Gambian Standard for Natural Mineral Waters is applicable to all packaged natural mineral waters offered for sale as food other than natural mineral waters sold or used for other purposes.

This Standard addresses the following:

- Description of natural mineral waters;
- Composition and quality factors;
- Hygienic requirements;
- Packaging requirements;
- Labeling requirements.

This Standard can be obtained from The Gambia Standards Bureau.

## SCOPE

This standard applies to all packaged natural mineral waters offered for sale as food. It does not apply to natural mineral waters sold or used for other purposes.

## 2. DEFINITIONS

### 2.1 Definition of natural mineral water

**Natural mineral water** is a water clearly distinguishable from ordinary drinking water because:

- a) it is characterized by its content of certain mineral salts and their relative proportions and the presence of trace elements or of other constituents;
- b) it is obtained directly from natural or drilled sources from underground water-bearing strata for which all possible precautions should be taken within the protected perimeters to avoid any pollution of, or external influence on, the chemical and physical qualities of natural mineral water;
- c) of the constancy of its composition and the stability of its discharge and its temperature, due account being taken of the cycles of minor natural fluctuations;
- d) it is collected under conditions which guarantee the original microbiological purity and chemical composition of essential components;
- e) it is packaged close to the point of emergence of the source with particular hygienic precautions;
- f) it is not subjected to any treatment other than those permitted by this standard.

### 2.2 Supplementary definitions

#### 2.2.1 Naturally carbonated natural mineral water

A **naturally carbonated natural mineral water** is a natural mineral water which, after possible treatment in accordance with Section 3.1.1 and re-incorporation of gas from the same source and after packaging taking into consideration usual technical tolerance, has the same content of carbon dioxide spontaneously and visibly given off under normal conditions of temperature and pressure.

### 2.2.2 Non-carbonated natural mineral water

A **non-carbonated natural mineral water** is a natural mineral water which, by nature and after possible treatment in accordance with Section 3.1.1 and after packaging taking into consideration usual technical tolerance, does not contain free carbon dioxide in excess of the amount necessary to keep the hydrogen carbonate salts present in the water dissolved.

### 2.2.3 Decarbonated natural mineral water

A **decarbonated natural mineral** is a natural mineral water which, after possible treatment in accordance with Section 3.1.1 and after packaging, has less carbon dioxide content than that at emergence and does not visibly and spontaneously give off carbon dioxide under normal conditions of temperature and pressure.

### 2.2.4 Natural mineral water fortified with carbon dioxide from the source

A **natural mineral water fortified with carbon dioxide from the source** is a natural mineral water which, after possible treatment in accordance with Section 3.1.1 and after packaging, has more carbon dioxide content than that at emergence.

### 2.2.5 Carbonated natural mineral water

A **carbonated natural mineral water** is a natural mineral water which, after possible treatment in accordance with Section 3.1.1 and after packaging, has been made effervescent by the addition of carbon dioxide from another origin.

## 2.3 Authorization

Natural mineral water should be recognized as such by the relevant national Regulator.



Only the informative sections of standards are publicly available. To have access to the full standard, you will need to purchase the standard from The Gambia Standards Bureau. You can contact the Bureau on TEL: 4464210, Email: [info@tgsb.gm](mailto:info@tgsb.gm)