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Summary of SANS 289:2022 Edition 2¹

SANS 289:2022 Edition 2 is a South African National Standard detailing "Labelling requirements for prepackaged products (prepackages) and general requirements for the sale of goods subject to legal metrology control". This edition was approved for publication in March 2024 and supersedes SANS 289:2016 (edition 1.6).

Table E.1 — Expression of quantity and prescribed quantities

1 Item	2 Product	3 Quantity to be expressed by	4 Prescribed quantities
1	*Adhesives and sealants a) Liquids, pastes or gels b) Solids	Mass or volume Mass	— —
2	*Aerosols	Mass or volume	—
3	Alcoholic beverages a) When packaged 1) Wine, including sparkling wine, imported champagne, vermouth, wine cocktails and flavoured grape liquors 2) Potable spirits including liqueurs, cream liqueurs and spirit cocktails 3) Beer including grain sorghum or a mixture of beer and lemonade or other mixer, containing more than 0,5 % by volume of alcohol 4) Other, including spirit coolers, alcoholic fruit beverages, alcoholic fruit beers/ales	Volume Volume Volume Volume	Any quantity up to and including 500 mL, then 750 mL, 1 L, 1,5 L, 2 L, 3 L, 4 L, 4,5 L, 5 L and integral multiples of 1 L above 5 L Any quantity up to and including 50 mL, then 200 mL, 250 mL, 300 mL, 375 mL, 500 mL, 750 mL, 1 L then 150 L and integral multiples of 1 L above 150 L — Any quantity up to and including 100 mL, then 250 mL, 275 mL, 300 mL, 330 mL, 340 mL, 375 mL, 440 mL, 450 mL, 500 mL, 680 mL, 750 mL, 1 L, 1,5 L, 2 L and integral multiples of 1 L above 2 L

Below is a summary of its key aspects:

1. Purpose and Scope:

- The standard establishes requirements for labelling prepackaged products regarding product identity, the name and place of business of the manufacturer, packer, distributor, importer, or retailer, and the net quantity of the product.
- It also includes general requirements for the sale of goods and prescribed sizes for specific products.
- The standard is focused on legal metrology legislation and does not cover other regulations like health, safety, tax, date limits, storage temperature, ingredient declarations, or nutritional information.
- It applies to both consumer and non-consumer packages [9.6.3]. Non-consumer packages cannot be sold as consumer packages unless they meet all consumer package requirements [9.6.3].

¹ Source: Google NotebookLM

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2. Foundational Basis:

- The standard was prepared by National Committee SABS/TC 070/SC 04, Legal metrology – Sale of goods.
- It is based on the International Organisation of Legal Metrology (OIML) Recommendation R79 and SADC MEL Document 1, aiming to harmonise technical regulations within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region and eliminate technical barriers to trade.

3. Key Definitions:

- **Prepackaged (product)/prepackage:** Any commodity made up as a unit with its quantity determined and indicated on its label before being offered for sale.
- **Net quantity:** The quantity of the identified product in the prepackage, exclusive of wrappers and other packaged material, unless specifically allowed.
- **Label:** Any written, printed, or graphic matter affixed to, applied to, or appearing on a package for branding, identifying, or providing information about the product or its contents.
- **Principal display panel:** The part of a package most likely to be displayed or examined.
- **Consumer package:** A prepackage customarily produced or distributed for sale to final purchasers.
- **Non-consumer package:** Any prepackage intended solely for industrial or institutional use or for wholesale distribution.

4. Core Labelling Requirements:

- **Identity of the product (Clause 4):** Must be a conspicuous feature on the principal display panel, easy to read and understand, using designations like a legally specified name, common name, or generic/descriptive term. Exemptions apply to products packaged on retail premises (with a sign) and liquor products.
- **Name and place of business of the manufacturer, packer, distributor, or importer (Clause 5):** The label must conspicuously specify the name and business address of the responsible person. The address can be a head office if the packaging plant's address can be identified. Exemptions apply to products packaged on retail premises and liquor products.
- **Declared net quantity of the prepackaged product (Clause 6):**
 - A declaration of net quantity must appear on the label (excluding the base) in a unit of measurement from Annex A or by number.

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- Quantities are typically expressed in the largest whole unit of mass, volume, length, or area, or a combination. Volume is for liquids, mass is for solids/semi-solids, and length is for certain product thicknesses.
- Statements must be in easily legible boldface type that contrasts conspicuously with the background.
- Minimum type sizes for letters and numerals are prescribed in Annex B.
- Specific rules govern how numbers are shown, generally no more than three figures, with exceptions. Common fractions are not permitted.

5. Misleading Practices (Clause 7):

- Packages must be designed and filled to prevent misleading purchasers about the product's quantity or identity.
- Non-functional slack fill (empty space beyond what is necessary for product protection, machine requirements, settling, or specific package function) is prohibited.
- Prohibits false bottoms, sidewalls, lids, or other deceptive construction/filling.
- Aerosol containers must be filled to at least 60% of their available capacity with liquid product (including propellant if expelled with product), or 50% for bi-compartmental aerosols (excluding propellant).

6. Annexes Providing Detailed Requirements:

- **Annex A (Normative) – Units of measurement and symbols:** Specifies appropriate units (e.g., mg, g, kg, L, mL) and symbols, rules for their use (e.g., no periods or "s" after symbols), and that the decimal indicator can be a comma or a dot.
- **Annex B (Normative) – Type size of letters and numerals:** Details minimum heights for quantity indications based on net contents or package dimensions.
- **Annex C (Normative) – Special requirements for certain products:** Covers supplementary indications, alternative positioning of markings, and requirements for indicating drained mass for foodstuffs in a liquid medium.
- **Annex D (Normative) – Goods exempted from quantity indication:** Lists specific goods that are exempt from quantity declarations, distinguishing between those for export within SADC and those primarily for domestic sale.
- **Annex E (Normative) – Manner of expressing the quantity and prescribed quantities for certain prepacked products:** Provides a comprehensive table

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detailing how quantities for specific products must be expressed (e.g., mass, volume, number) and, for consumer packages, the prescribed quantities in which they must be sold.

7. General Application:

- Required markings must be in at least one official language of the country of sale.
- Prepackaged products must be labelled in accordance with this standard before being offered for sale.

8. Availability and Copyright:

- The standard is published by the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS).
- The copyright for South African National Standards vests in the SABS, and any use is limited to what is specifically prescribed by the SABS.
- It can be purchased from the SABS Sales Office or online from the SABS [Webstore](#).