

Updates and Errata for the 2012 Edition of the Certified Specialist of Spirits Study Guide

Errata: Irish Whiskey - On page 39, the study guide states that the aging requirement for Irish Whiskey is 4 years, however the correct aging requirement is 3 years.

Errata: Bourbon Whisky - On page 41, the study guide states that Bourbon "must be aged in new, charred oak barrels for a minimum of two years." However, this requirement is only true for Bourbon labeled as "Straight Bourbon." For "regular" Bourbon, while the spirit must be put into new, charred oak barrels, there is no minimum aging requirement.

Errata: Fruit-flavored Brandy - On page 91 of the study guide, it states that fruit-flavored brandies must be bottled at a minimum of 70 proof (according to U.S. standards). The actual minimum is 60 proof; the definition of "flavored brandy" on page 116 is correct.

Errata: Añejo Rum - On page 68 of the study guide, it states that rum labeled with the term "añejo" must be aged for at least one year. However the term is actually a stylistic descriptor in terms of rum aging, and there is no standard requirement or definition for use of the term. The term is, however, specific in its use for Tequila, as stated on page 81 of the study guide.

The Scotch Whisky Regulations of 2009: The Scotch Whisky Regulations were updated in 2009 and formally define five categories of Scotch Whisky. According to the new laws, the relevant category description must appear clearly and prominently on every bottle of Scotch Whisky sold. The categories are:

- **Single Malt Scotch Whisky** – Distilled at a single distillery using malted barley without the addition of any other cereals, and by batch distillation in pot stills. As of November 23, 2012, Single Malt Scotch Whisky must be bottled in Scotland.
- **Single Grain Scotch Whisky** – Distilled at a single distillery using malted barley with or without whole grains of other malted or unmalted cereals. This category is used for whiskies that do not meet the definition of Single Malt Scotch Whisky.
- **Blended Scotch Whisky** - A blend of one or more Single Malt Scotch Whiskies with one or more Single Grain Scotch Whiskies.
- **Blended Malt Scotch Whisky** - A blend of Single Malt Scotch Whiskies which have been distilled at more than one distillery.
- **Blended Grain Scotch Whisky** - A blend of Single Grain Scotch Whiskies, which have been distilled at more than one distillery.

The Scotch Whisky Regulations of 2009 also provide **legal protection for the traditional regional names (Highland, Lowland, Speyside, Campbeltown and Islay) associated with Scotch Whisky production.** These names can only appear on whiskies wholly distilled in those regions.

Click here for a copy of [The Scotch Whisky Regulations 2009](#)

Brazilian Rum - As of April 11, 2103, the United States Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) recognized “Cachaça” as a type of rum and a distinctive product of Brazil. While the Brazilian standard allows Cachaça to have an alcohol as low as 38% alcohol by volume, any product imported into the United States will conform to the U.S. minimum bottling of 40% by volume. Brazilian standards also allow for a percentage of corn or corn syrup in the fermentation process, however the U.S. definition does not allow for the use of corn products.

Pisco, Peru and Chile - In a somewhat confusing turn of events, on July 15, 2013, the United States TTB recognized "Pisco" as a type of brandy and a distinctive product of both Peru and Chile. Meanwhile, in November of 2013, the European Union determined that while both Peru and Chile can use the term "Pisco" on its products, only Peru may use the term as a geographical indication, in reference to the Pisco Province of Peru.

The Irish Whiskey Act of 1980: According to the Irish Whiskey Act of 1980, Irish whiskey must be:

- Distilled in Ireland from a mash of cereal grains
- Distilled to an alcoholic strength of less than 94.8% alcohol by volume (189.6 proof)
- Distilled in such a way so that the distillate has an aroma and flavor derived from the materials used
- Stored in wooden casks in Ireland not less than three years.

Types of Irish Whiskey: There are essentially four types of Irish whiskey, however, of these four only “Blended Irish Whiskey” is specifically defined by the Irish Whiskey Act of 1980, so the definitions of Irish grain whiskey, Irish single malt whiskey, and Irish pot still whiskey, while traditional, are not to be considered the rule of law:

- **Irish Grain Whiskey:** Irish grain whiskey is traditionally continuously distilled from unmalted grains. This lighter and more neutral style of spirit is generally used in blends. However, a unique single grain, small batch Irish grain whiskey is produced by Greenore.
- **Irish Single Malt Whiskey:** Irish single malt whiskey is produced entirely from malted barley, and distilled in a pot still. Examples include Bushmills single malt, Connemara Peated Malt, The Irishman single malt, and Tyrconnell single malt.
- **Irish Pot Still Whiskey:** Unique to Ireland, Irish pot still whiskey is produced from a mixture of malted and unmalted barley, completely distilled in a pot still. This type of spirit may be referred to as “pure pot still whiskey” or “Irish pot still whiskey.” Irish pot still whiskey is a traditional product only produced by a few distilleries. Examples include “Redbreast,” “Green Spot,” and Jameson 15 year old Pure Pot Still Whiskey.
- **Blended Irish Whiskey:** As with Scotch, Irish blends are the most important whiskeys in the category. Jameson, produced at the Midleton distillery, is one of the top sellers, along with Black Bush, Bushmills, Millars, Paddy, and Tullamore Dew. According to the Irish Whiskey Act of 1980, blended Irish Whiskey must meet all of the requirements for Irish whiskey in general, and be comprised of a blend of at least two distillates.