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Cork stoppers for sparkling wines and gasified wines — Specifications

Bouchons en liège pour vins mousseux et vins gazéifiés — Spécifications

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for approval before their acceptance as International Standards by the ISO Council. They are approved in accordance with ISO procedures requiring at least 75 % approval by the member bodies voting.

International Standard ISO 4710 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 87, *Cork*.

Cork stoppers for sparkling wines and gasified wines — Specifications

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies the characteristics of cork stoppers for sparkling wines and gasified wines.

2 Normative reference

The following standard contains provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this International Standard. At the time of publication, the edition indicated was valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent edition of the standard listed below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 633, *Cork — Vocabulary*.

3 Definitions

For the purposes of this International Standard, in addition to the definitions given in ISO 633, the following definitions apply.

3.1 sparkling wines : Special wines made with grapes, with must or with wines treated according to techniques approved under the "Office international de la vigne et du vin" (OIV) code for oenological treatments. They are characterized by the production, upon opening the container, of a more or less persistent effervescence resulting from the release of carbon dioxide solely of endogenous origin.

The gas in the bottle is under an overpressure of at least 3,5 bar¹⁾ at 20 °C over and above atmospheric pressure; however, the minimum overpressure for bottles of less than 25 cl capacity becomes 3 bar at 20 °C. Depending on the preparation technique, sparkling wines are classified into wines that develop their effervescence characteristic in the bottle and wines that develop their effervescence characteristic in a closed vat.

3.2 gasified wines : Special wines derived from wines treated according to methods approved by the OIV and presenting physical characteristics similar to those of sparkling wines, but in which the carbon dioxide has a partial or total exogenous origin.

3.3 crown : The bottom surface of a stopper for sparkling wines and gasified wines.

4 Types

The stoppers for sparkling wines and gasified wines may be of several types, namely :

- a) natural cork stoppers;
- b) agglomerated cork stoppers with, however, one or several discs made of natural cork;
- c) stoppers made only of agglomerated cork.

1) 1 bar = 10⁵ Pa

5 Shape

Each one of the types described in clause 6 may be of two distinct shapes, depending on the kind of manufacturing process :

- A stopper shaped as a right quadrangular prism with rounded lateral edges, called "hand imitation" (see figure 1).
- A stopper that has the shape of a cylinder generated by the rotation of a rectangle, called "round" (see figure 2).

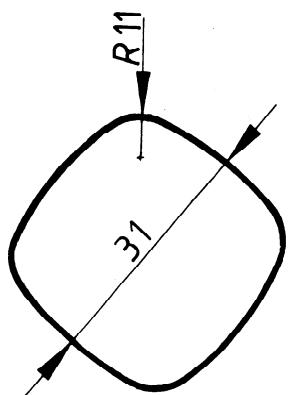


Figure 1 — Cross-section of a "hand imitation" stopper

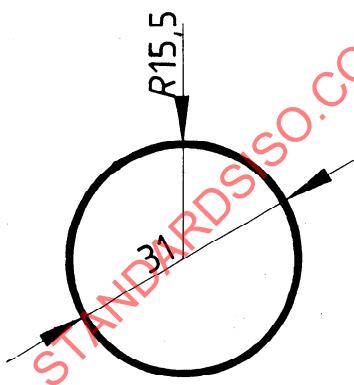


Figure 2 — Cross-section of a "round" stopper

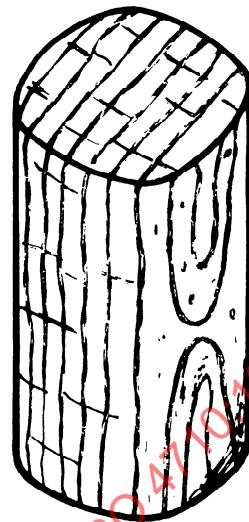


Figure 3 — "Homogeneous" stopper

6.2 Stoppers made of several pieces of natural corkwood glued together

6.2.1 Two-piece stopper (symbol 2)

A stopper made up of two equal pieces cut from the same strip, glued with the "back" towards the inner part of the stopper and the "belly" towards the outside. (See figure 4.)

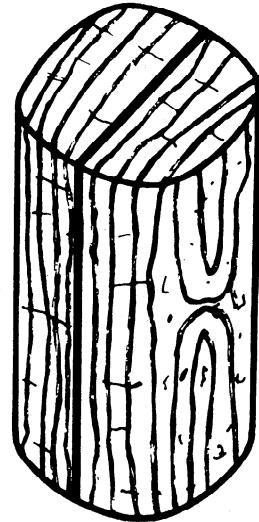


Figure 4 — Two-piece stopper

6 Description

6.1 One-piece stopper, called "homogeneous" stopper (symbol 1)

A stopper made of one piece of natural corkwood. (See figure 3.)

6.2.2 Three-piece stopper (symbol 3)

A stopper made up of three glued parts derived from the same strip and with the same thickness, and in which both external parts have the "back" towards the inner part of the stopper and the "belly" towards the outside. (See figure 5.)



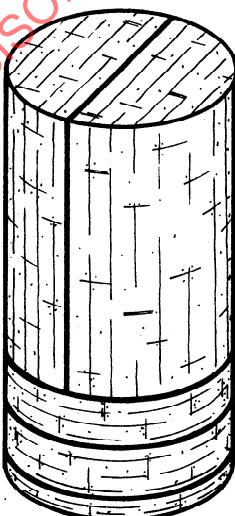
Figure 5 — Three-piece stopper

6.2.3 Four/five-piece stopper (symbol 4 or 5)

A stopper comprising a body made up of two (possibly three) pieces cut from the same strip, glued as for the two-piece stopper (6.2.1) or the three-piece stopper (6.2.2), and of two or three discs of natural corkwood (three discs being used only for stoppers comprising a body made up of two pieces) cut at right angles to the lenticels, with fully parallel faces, an equal thickness of 6 to 8 mm (with a minimum of 3 mm for the external disc when the stopper has three discs), and glued to one end of the body (see figure 6).



Four-piece stopper



Five-piece stopper

Figure 6 — Four/five-piece stoppers



Figure 7 — Stopper with one crosswise disc

6.2.4 Stopper with one crosswise disc (symbol C)

This may be considered as a two-piece stopper (6.2.1) a part of which has been cut off at right angles to the generant, having the same thickness as a disc, then rotated through 90° and glued to the other pieces. (See figure 7.)

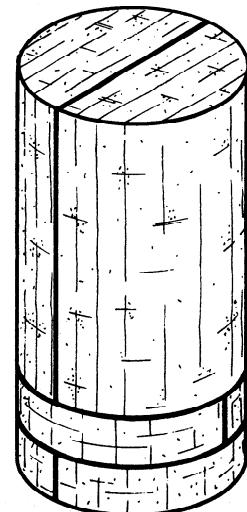


Figure 8 — Stopper with two crosswise discs

6.3 Agglomerated cork stopper (symbol A preceded by a number indicating the number of discs)

A stopper comprising a body of agglomerated cork of uniform compression lengthwise and one to three discs of natural cork-wood cut at right angles to the lenticels, with fully parallel faces, a thickness of 6 to 8 mm (with a minimum of 4 mm for the external disc when the stopper has two or three discs), and glued to one end of the body. (See figure 9.)



Figure 9 — Agglomerated cork stopper

6.4 Stopper made only of agglomerated cork of uniform compression lengthwise (symbol OA) (See figure 10)



Figure 10 — Stopper made only of agglomerated cork of uniform compression lengthwise

This type of stopper shall not be used for sparkling wines.

7 Finish

Whatever their type and shape, stoppers shall have a very good finish (polished surfaces, crowns at right angles to the lateral edges).

8 Classification according to characteristics

8.1 Stoppers of natural corkwood

The classification of stoppers and discs made of natural corkwood is determined by the significance, in number and seriousness, of their anomalies.

— The fineness of the cork, upon which depends that of the stopper, depends on the number and diameter of pores per unit of surface area.

In practice the notion of grain is sometimes referred to instead of fineness.

— The firmness of the stopper is related to the number of veins and to their breadth.

— Defects in stoppers stem both from the nature and the defects of the corkwood used in their manufacture and from the manufacturing and finishing operations. Anomalies are of three types : non-allowable, tolerable and minor.

8.1.1 Fineness

Stoppers are classified according to four degrees of fineness :

- superior stoppers with only very slight, almost imperceptible pores;
- fine stoppers, with a few fine pores;
- “first” stoppers, with a certain number of average sized pores;
- “second” stoppers, with a few large pores filled with reddish powder, a few cracks or a few crevices of small extent.

“Second” stoppers are used only for ageing in the bottle.

8.1.2 Firmness

Stoppers are classified according to four degrees of firmness :

- firm stoppers, with at least 10 regular veins;
- half-firm stoppers, with 8 to 10 regular veins;
- half-soft stoppers, with 6 to 8 regular veins;
- soft stoppers, with less than 6 regular veins.