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## Core National Legislation Overseeing Liquor Regulation in South Africa<sup>1</sup>

Here is a comprehensive list of core national legislation overseeing the regulation of liquor in South Africa, including references to the roles played by various government departments:

### 1. Liquor Act 59 of 2003

- **Overview:** The principal piece of legislation regulating the manufacture and wholesale/distribution of liquor nationally.
- **Key functions:** Sets out national norms and standards; establishes the National Liquor Authority (NLA), and defines processes for registration, licences, compliance, advertising, and prohibitions (e.g., supply to minors).
- **Administered by:** Department of Trade, Industry, and Competition (the DTIC).

### 2. Liquor Products Act 60 of 1989 (as amended by the Liquor Products Amendment Act, 2021)

- **Overview:** Regulates the composition, production, labelling, and sale of various liquor products such as wine, spirits, beer (including traditional African beer), and other fermented beverages.
- **It is administered by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform, and Rural Development;** in aspects of food safety, it also involves the Department of Health.

### 3. National Liquor Regulations (2004 and subsequent amendments)

- **Overview:** Detailed regulations promulgated under the Liquor Act 59 of 2003, encompassing operational, licensing, record-keeping, compliance, and enforcement provision.
- **Administered by:** National Liquor Authority (NLA), within the DTIC.

### 4. National Liquor Policy (2016 and current policy reviews)

- **Overview:** Provides the framework for harmonisation and cooperative governance between national, provincial, and local authorities. Sets out policy priorities, enforcement coordination, and department responsibilities.
- **Administered by:** the DTIC.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Perplexity

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## Relevant Government Departments Involved

- **Department of Trade, Industry, and Competition (the DTIC):** Main administrator, licensing of manufacturers/distributors through the National Liquor Authority.
- **South African Revenue Service (SARS):** Regulates, monitors, and collects excise duties, taxes, and issues import/export licenses concerning alcohol.
- **Department of Agriculture, Land Reform, and Rural Development:** Responsible for product standards, composition, and labelling of liquor products.
- **Department of Health:** Involved in health and safety standards for alcohol products.
- **South African Police Service (SAPS):** Enforcement, inspections, and compliance under the relevant Acts.
- **Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJ&CD), Department of Transport (DOT), Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA):** Play supporting regulatory, compliance, and cooperative governance roles as applicable.
- **South African Bureau of Standards (SABS):** SANS are technical standards developed SABS and apply to a wide range of products, including liquor. In the liquor context, the most relevant is **SANS 289**, which sets requirements for packaging, specifically regarding the measurement, labelling, and declaration of volume for pre-packaged products such as liquor. SANS 289 ensures that the volume stated on liquor bottles is accurate, aligning with South Africa’s legal metrology requirements (as referenced in the Legal Metrology Act, 2014).

Table E.1 — Expression of quantity and prescribed quantities

1	2	3	4
Item	Product	Quantity to be expressed by	Prescribed quantities
1	*Adhesives and sealants		
	a) Liquids, pastes or gels	Mass or volume	–
	b) Solids	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	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
	2) Potable spirits including liqueurs, cream liqueurs and spirit cocktails	Volume	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
	3) Beer including grain sorghum or a mixture of beer and lemonade or other mixer, containing more than 0,5 % by volume of alcohol	Volume	–
	4) Other, including spirit coolers, alcoholic fruit beverages, alcoholic fruit beers/ales	Volume	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

SANS 289 is a paid-for document, which can be purchased on the SABS [Webstore](#) (SANS 289:2022 Ed. 2 Labelling requirements for prepackaged products (prepackages) and general requirements for the sale of goods subject to legal metrology control)

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## Provincial and Local Regulations

While the above are the core *national* acts and regulations, specific Provincial Liquor Acts determine retail and micro-manufacturing licensing at the provincial level.

## Summary Table

Act / Regulation	Main Focus / Area	Administering Department(s)
Liquor Act 59 of 2003	Manufacture & Distribution	Dept. of Trade, Industry, & Competition (the DTIC)
Liquor Products Act 60 of 1989	Product Standards, Labelling	Dept. of Agriculture; Dept. of Health (safety)
National Liquor Regulations (2004, etc.)	Operational Provisions	Dept. of Trade, Industry, & Competition (the DTIC)
National Liquor Policy	Enforcement, Coordination	All departments (esp. DTIC, SAPS, Health, Agriculture)

This framework ensures South Africa has a robust, multi-departmental approach to liquor regulation covering manufacture, product standardisation, distribution, sales, enforcement, and public health protection.