



Hospitality and Catering

# Weights and measures

## Lesson 3

Become trained in the legal and job role requirements of working in a bar by completing the weights and measures course





# Why measure alcohol

Measuring alcohol helps to set limits for driving and for healthy living.

It allows people to measure their own intake.





# Specified quantities

Products must be sold in legal measures.

Alcohol has rules depending on whether you're selling by the glass or bottle.





# Alcohol served by the glass

Still wine: 125ml, 175ml

Port, sherry, fortified wine: 50ml, 70ml





# Alcohol served by the glass

Gin, rum, vodka, whisky: 25ml

Draught beer, larger and cider:  
half a pint and a pint





# Selling bottles of wine

You can sell bottles of wine if it is below the legal size, which is usually 1500ml for a full size bottle.

You could not sell boxes of wine because they hold more liquid.





# Selling spirits

All spirits are sold in small measures.  
It is legal to sell full bottles but they  
must be below 2000ml or 2ltr in  
size.





# Measuring alcohol

We use set measures for all alcohol, usually in the form of a pre-set sized measuring container.

This is called a measure cup or an optic.







# Measures must be stamped

'Government stamped' automatic measuring devices such as 'optics' or by using 'thimble' measures guarantee that the quantity served will be accurate.





# Using a thimble

'Thimble' measures are required to be filled to the brim. It is good practice to hold the 'thimble' over the glass the drink is to be served in whilst it is being filled.





# Using optics

'Optic' type devices on bottles should ensure that the measuring chamber is not obscured by price stickers etc so that the chamber can be seen to be full before use.





# Using optics

The measuring chamber should be allowed to fully refill before another measure is dispensed.





# Free pouring

These devices are not legally accurate and are intended for use in making cocktails.





# Free pouring

If you use bottle-top pourers a stamped 'thimble' should also be used when serving gin, rum, vodka and whisky neat or with a single mixer drinks.







# Measuring alcohol

Serving pints directly into pint glasses with pint markers on the glass for staff and customers to visually see they are being served a full pint.

Some wine glasses have a marked measure on the glass.





# Stamp of approval

Draught beer, lager or cider should be measured using either an automatic metering system or glasses of a relevant quantity.

All equipment and glasses should be 'Government stamped'







# The stamp

Old style stamp: Crown and  
inspector's number

New style 'European directive' style  
stamp





# Pint glass measures

Stamped glasses are used to measure and serve draught beer, lager and cider.





# Pint glass measures

Brim measures (where they need to be filled to the top of the glass)

Lined glasses (where there is space above the quantity line to accommodate drinks with a frothy head).





# The right glass for the right pint

Stout is traditionally served with a large frothy head whilst ciders are not.

If customers consider that the amount of frothy head served is excessive they can ask for the glass to be topped up to a reasonably acceptable level.





# Automatic drinks dispensers

If automatic half-pint meters are used, the glasses that the drinks are dispensed into should be slightly bigger than the amount being served to allow for any frothy head being produced.





# Automatic drinks dispensers

These glasses don't need to be stamped or have a particular quantity marked on them as an automatic measure is taken.







# Sales by jug or pitcher

Beer, lager and cider can be sold in jugs or pitchers as long as:

- The quantity is made known to the customer
- The quantity is a multiple of a half-pint





# Sales by jug or pitcher

Make sure stamped equipment, measures or glasses are used to determine the amount served.







# Measuring alcohol levels

One unit of alcohol is 10 millilitres of pure alcohol. Typical drinks may contain 1–3 units of alcohol.

A legal measure of spirit is 25ml.





# Penalties

Failure to comply with the trading standards law that includes 'weights and measures' can lead to enforcement action and to sanctions, which may include a fine and/or imprisonment.





# Alcohol by volume

- Beer is approximately 4.5 percent
- Wine is approximately 11.6 percent
- Spirit is approximately 37 percent





# Healthy drinking – 14 units per week

If a spirit measure is 25ml with an alcohol volume of 37% then 1 measure = 1 unit.

14 spirit shots

6 Pints of strong lager

7 glasses of wine





# Revision Activity 3

**What is a stamped glass used for?**