

ENQUIRY DRAFT

Specification for Toilet or bath soap



ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED
ISO/IEC 17025:2017 ACCREDITED

Guyana National Bureau of Standards

Comment Period: From June 09,2025 to August 08, 2025

© GNBS 2025

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized otherwise in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, or posting on the internet or an intranet, without prior written permission. Permission can be requested from the GNBS at the address below.

Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS)

Track MB, Block B

National Exhibition Centre, Sophia

Georgetown, Guyana

Telephone: 592-219-0064-66

Email: standards@gnbsgy.org

Website: www.gnbsgy.org

Standards Portal: www.gnbsguy.com

Contents

	Page
Contents.....	ii
Foreword.....	iii
Members of Technical Committee – Consumer Products.....	iv
Standard	
1. Scope.....	1
2. Definitions	1
3. Requirements	2
3.1 General requirements	2
3.2 Chemical Requirements	2
3.3 Calculation of results.....	2
4 Sampling.....	3
4.1 Scale of sampling.....	3
5 Packaging and marking.....	3
5.1 Packaging	3
5.2 Marking.....	3
Appendix A.....	5
Appendix B.....	6

Foreword

This Draft Guyana Standard is the first revision of GYS 21: 1995, “Specification for Toilet soap.” It was revised by the **Technical Committee- Consumer Products**.

This revision was conducted to update the requirements for applicability in the current market to ensure consumer safety.

The draft standard sets out quality requirements for toilet soap and will guide manufacturers in the production of toilet soap. During the revision of this standard assistance was derived from the Indian Standard IS 2888: 2004 “Specification for toilet soap” and the CARICOM Regional Standard CRS 61: 2017 Soap bars- Specification.

Members of Technical Committee – Consumer Products

Name	Organisation
Dr. Dawn Fox (Chairperson)	University of Guyana
Mr. Mario Gohill	Sterling Products Limited
Mr. Joshua Duesbury	Accado Guyana
Ms. Sarah Savory (Alternate)	Accado Guyana
Mr. Keelun Booker	Competition and Consumer Affairs Commission
Ms. Melissa Younge	Dunae Trading Company Inc.
Mr. Leon Augustus	Guyana Marketing Cooperation
Mr. Kenneth David	Government Analyst Food and Drug Department
Ms. Samathra Scott (Technical Officer)	Guyana National Bureau of Standards

Specification for toilet or bath soap

1 Scope

This standard specifies the quality requirements and methods of sampling for tests of toilet soap. It does not make provision for liquid soap and specialty soaps, such as medicated soap.

2 Definitions

2.1 allergen

A usually harmless substance capable of triggering a response that starts in the immune system and results in an allergic reaction.

2.2 bar

Solid, usually rectangular block of soap.

2.3 cake

Mass, slab or crust solidified or compressed to form soap.

2.4 carcinogen

Causing cancer or relating to things that cause cancer

2.5 carton

Box made of cardboard.

2.6 color additive

Any material that is a dye, pigment or other substance made by a process of synthesis or similar artifice, or extracted, isolated, or otherwise derived, with or without intermediate or final change of identity, from a vegetable, animal or mineral, or other source and that, when added or applied to a food, drug, or cosmetic or to the human body or any part thereof, is capable of imparting a color.

2.7 fragrance

Any natural or synthetic substance or substances used solely to impart an odor to a cosmetic product.

2.8 free caustic alkali

Free (uncombined) caustic alkali present in Toilet Soap.

2.9 lather

Foam or froth formed by the action of soap or a detergent in water.

2.10 saponification

The process of converting fat into soap by treatment with alkali.

2.11 soap

a cleansing and emulsifying agent made usually by action of alkali on fat or fatty acids and consisting essentially of sodium or potassium salts of such acids

2.12 total fatty matter

Includes substances soluble in ether under the conditions of the test, such as fatty and resin acids present in a combined state, as well as unsaponified and unsaponified matter

2.13 toilet soap/bath soap

A mild soap, often coloured and scented, used for washing oneself.

2.14 unsaponified matter

The portion of fat (neutral glycerides) which does not react with the alkali in the production of soap.

3 Requirements

3.1 General requirements

Toilet soap shall:

- (a) be in bar or cake form;
- (b) be free from objectionable odour;
- (c) not contain any visible foreign matter;
- (d) not break easily on drying after immersion for one (1) hour at 23– 30°C in distilled water;
- (e) possess good lathering and cleansing properties;
- (f) have ingredients which are biologically safe for use on skin and hair and shall not contain any known carcinogens or allergens.
- (g) not contain any of the chemicals in Appendix A

3.2 Chemical Requirements

Table 1

Chemical Characteristics for Toilet Soap

CHARACTERISTICS	REQUIREMENTS (% BY WEIGHT)	Methods of test
Total fatty matter (as % of mass)	70.0 (min)	ISO 685
Unsaponified matter	0.5 (max)	ISO 1067
Free caustic alkali as sodium hydroxide (NaOH)	0.05 (max)	ISO 456
Matter insoluble in alcohol	2.5	ISO 673
Moisture and volatile matter at 105°C	14.0 (max)	ISO 672 or ISO 4318
Average mass of cake or bar	Not less than declared mass	Measured when packed

3.3 The soap shall conform to the requirements of **Clause 3**, hereof, when stored under normal storage conditions for the duration of its stated shelf life.

3.4 Calculation of results

As toilet soap is liable to lose moisture on keeping, the result of analysis in respect of the specification in **Table 1** shall be recalculated in relation to the minimum specified for total fatty matter according to the following equation:

$$\text{Recalculated Results} = \text{Actual Results} \times \frac{\text{Minimum Total Fatty Matter}}{\text{Actual Total Fatty Matter}}$$

4 Sampling

4.1 Scale of sampling

4.1.1 Routine samples: a minimum of (3) three bars or cakes shall be selected at random from each 100 bars or cakes so as to adequately represent the bulk of the consignment.

4.1.2 Lot: each separate delivery of cartons or other packages shall be considered as a separate lot for purpose of sampling.

4.1.3 Selected Cartons or other packages: the number of cartons or other packages selected at random from each lot shall be equal to half the square root (corrected to next integer) of the total number of cartons or other packages in the lot. These cartons or other packages shall constitute the gross sample.

4.1.4 Procedure: individual samples equal to half the square root of the total (corrected to the next integer) shall be drawn from the contents of each of the selected cartons or other packages, taking care to draw samples strictly representative of all packing positions in the package. The sample shall immediately be placed in an air-tight package, sealed, marked and kept in a cool place until tested.

5 Packaging and marking

5.1 Packaging

5.1.1 For retail sale toilet soap shall be prepackaged in wrappers or cartons (or both) which protect individual cakes of soap damage during shipping, storage, or handling.

5.1.2 A number of cakes of toilet soap may be sold in the same retail package.

5.1.3 Cartons and other shipping containers, used for toilet soap shall adequately protect the product against damage by rain, seawater, moisture, heat, sunlight, compression, or mechanical shock.

5.2 Marking

5.2.1 Cakes of toilet soap may be marked with a registered design, trademark, or brand name controlled by the manufacturer or licensed to be used by them.

5.2.2 Retail packages (cartons or wrappers) containing toilet soap shall carry the following information legibly presented in the English language and readily seen under the usual conditions of purchase and use:-

- (a) the brand name or trade name, if any;
- (b) the name of the manufacturer or of the person controlling the brand or trade name, together with adequate postal address;
- (c) the name of the country of origin;
- (d) best before date;
- (e) manufacture date
- (f) lot number ; and
- (g) the average net contents of each package when packed in terms of grams (g) using Arabic numerals. It may also be shown in ounces (ozs.) avoirdupois in addition to grams.

5.2.3 Information in other languages shall be clearly separated from that in English.

5.2.4 Wholesale packages and shipping packages of toilet soap shall be legibly marked in English with the brand name, or trade name, the manufacturer's name, the country of origin, and the net contents in terms of units or the number of cakes or bars of stated mass packed therein.

5.2.5 Labelling shall not include any unsubstantiated claims in relation to the effectiveness of the product.

ENQUIRY DRAFT

Appendix A

(Normative)

Prohibited Ingredients

The following ingredients shall be excluded from toilet soap:

- (a) bithionol
- (b) chlorofluorocarbon propellants
- (c) chloroform
- (d) halogenated salicylanides (di-,tri-, metabromsalan and tetrachlorosalicylanide)
- (e) hexachlorophene
- (f) mercury compounds
- (g) methylene chloride
- (h) prohibited cattle materials

Appendix B

(Informative)

Recommended accepted test methods

B.1 For the purpose of testing the samples, methods of equivalence to those contained in the international standards shall be as prescribed:

- (a) Determination of total fatty matter content (Table 1) ISO 685;
- (b) Determination of moisture and matter volatile at 105 °C (Table 1) ISO 672 and ISO 4318;
- (c) Determination of matter insoluble in ethanol (Table 1) ISO 673.

B.2 The following methods should be used when required:

- (a) Unsaponified fatty matter (ISO 1067); and
- (b) Glycerol content (ISO 1066).

B.3 Methods of analysis for various characteristics of soaps are described in the following standards:

- (a) British standard BS 1715; and
- (b) International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) methods.

END OF DOCUMENT