



BREWUP

Definition of low and non-alcoholic beer

Overview

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Country	Original term	English translation	Description	Legal reference
Austria	alkoholfreies Bier	alcohol-free	≤ 0.5% ABV	
	Leichtbier	light	≤ 3.7% ABV	
Belgium	alcoholvrij / sans alcool	alcohol-free	≤ 0.5% ABV and gravity ≥ 2,2° Plato	Koninklijk Besluit van 31 maart 1993 betreffende bier / Arrêté royal du 31 mars 1993 concernant la bière
	laag alcoholisch bier/pauvre en alcool	low alcohol	> 0.5% ABV and ≤ 1.2% ABV and gravity ≥ 2,2° Plato	
	light	light	30% energy reduction / calorific value	
Bulgaria	Безалкохолна бира/безалкохолно пиво	Alcohol-free beer/brew, or Non-alcoholic beer	Alcohol-free beer/brew means beer with an alcohol content below 0.5 % abv.	No explicit legal definition. According to the excise legislation Alcoholic "Beer" shall be any product falling within CN code 2203 or any product which is a mixture of beer and soft drinks falling within CN code 2206, in both cases with actual alcoholic strength by volume exceeding 0.5 % vol. "
Croatia				
Cyprus	Awaiting ministerial information			
Czech Republic	Nealkoholicke	Alcohol-free beer / Non-alcoholic beer	Alcohol-free beer means beer with an alcohol content of not more than 0.5 % by volume	Notice 335/1997 Sb.
	Nizkoalkoholicke	Low alcoholic beer	Low-alcohol beer means beer with an alcohol content of more than 0.5 % and not more than 1.2 % by volume	Notice 335/1997 Sb.

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Denmark	“Alkoholfri øl” or "Extra light" or "Super Light" or "Free" or "Alkoholfri Pilsner"	“Alcohol-Free beer” or "Extra light" or "Super Light" or "Free" or "Alcohol Free Pilsner"	Max 0,5% ABV	The Danish limit of alcohol content in alcohol free beer is set by The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration in a guideline to the claims regulation. In the guideline it is stated that the alcohol content in beverages which usually contains alcohol, should be close to zero, if the product is claimed as alcohol free. It is recommended that the alcohol content does not exceed 0,5 % vol. Furthermore, if a product is claimed “alcohol free”, it must be indicated on the label how much alcohol the product contains.
	Letøl or "Light" "Let/Lys Pilsner"	“Low alcohol” or "Light" or "Light pilsner"	0,6 %-2,7%	
Estonia				
Finland	alkoholiton olut	alcohol-free	≤ 0.5% ABV	CN 22.02: Beverages called non-alcoholic beer consisting of beer made from malt, the alcoholic strength of which by volume has been reduced to 0.5 % vol or less.
	mieto olut	mild beer	0.5-2.8 % ABV	Alkoholijuomaverolaki 1143/1994 (Excise duty law. There is no mild beer in alcohol law, but there is different taxation for beer 0.5-2.8).
	kevyt olut	light	30% less energy content	REGULATION (EC) No 1924/2006 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 20 December 2006 on nutrition and health claims made on foods

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France	bière sans alcool	alcohol-free beer	≤ 1.2% ABV following a dealcoholisation process or the start of a fermentation process	Décret n° 92-307 du 31 mars 1992 stipulates that "bière sans alcool" is the (legal) name of a beer fulfilling these criteria
Germany	alkoholfreies Bier	alcohol-free	≤ 0.5% ABV	Common Law
	Leicht-/Light-Bier	light	30% reduction of alcohol and/or 30% reduction of energy	Regulation (EC)1924/2006
Greece	Ειδικός Ζύθος που δεν έχει αλκοόλη ή έχει χαμηλή περιεκτικότητα σε αλκοόλη	non-alcohol or alcohol-free beer and low alcohol beer	Non-alcohol or Alcohol-free beer: original gravity should be minimum 2 and with an alcohol content maximum 0.7 % by volume (abv) Low alcohol beer: original gravity should be minimum 2 and with an alcohol content maximum 1.5 % by volume(abv) Non-alcohol beer according to the Excise tax regulation is with alcohol content less than 0.5 % by volume (abv)	Regulation 2963/1922 paragraph 3(b), article 3 – According also to Food & Beverage Code Art. 86 L.2960/2001 Customs & Excise Code
Hungary	alkoholmentes sör	non-alcoholic beer	“... a beverage named “non-alcoholic beer”, made of malt beer but with an alcoholic content of 0.5 or less percentage by volume”	Excise legislation, Decree No. 13/2004 (II.25.) of the Ministry of Finance
Ireland	NO REGULATION – According to the Revenue Commissioner’s Office the tax definition of beer, made from malt, exceeding 0.5% vol ABV and includes any beverage exceeding 0.5% vol containing a mixture of Beer with a non-alcoholic beverage. No legal definition of low alcohol beer.			
Italy	birra analolica	alcohol-free	≤ 1.2% ABV	Law 16 August 1962 n. 1354

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	birra leggera o light	light	> 1.2 and ≤ 3.5% ABV	
Latvia				
Lithuania				
Luxembourg	“sans alcool”		L'indication «sans alcool» fait partie de la dénomination lorsque les boissons ont une densité primitive minimale de 2,2° Plato et une teneur en alcool de maximum 0,5 %.	Règlement Grand Ducal du 27 Janvier 1994 relatif à la bière
	“légèrement alcoolisée” ou “pauvre en alcool”		Lorsque les boissons ont une densité primitive minimale de 2,2° Plato et une teneur en alcool de plus de 0,5 et de maximum 1,2 %.	
Malta				
Netherland	alcoholvrij	Alcohol free	≤ 0.1% ABV and a extract of the wort of at least 4%	Warenwetbesluit Gereserveerde aanduidingen
	alcoholarm	low alcohol	> 0.1% - ≤ 1.2% ABV and a extract of the wort of at least 4%	Warenwetbesluit Gereserveerde aanduidingen
	light	light	30% less calorific value	Regulation (EU)1924/2006
Norway	Alkoholfritt øl	Non-alcoholic beer	< 0,7 % ABV	Law of 2 June 1989 no 27

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	Lettøl	Light beer	> 0,7 and < 2,5 % ABV	
Poland	piwo bezalkoholowe	alcohol free beer	≤0.5% ABV	
	piwo niskoalkoholowe	low alcohol	0.5 - 1.2% ABV	former Standard No. PN-A-79098
		light beer	1.2 - 4.0% ABV	now not mandatory, but used in the industry
	piwo mocne	strong beer	>6.0% ABV	
Portugal	sem álcool	alcohol-free	< 0.5% ABV	
	com baixo teor alcoólico	low alcohol	≥ 0.5% and ≤ 1.2% ABV	Decree n° 1/96 of January 3, 1996
Romania				
Slovak Republic	Nealkoholické pivo	alcohol-free	< 0.5% ABV	
	Pivo so zníženým množstvom alkoholu	low alcohol	≥ 0.5% and ≤ 1.2% ABV	Food Code and Drinks Regulation
	Ľahké pivo	light beer	Max. 130 kJ/100 ml	
Slovenia	Brezalkoholno pivo	Non-alcoholic beer	Max. 0,5 vol%alcohol	Pravilnik o kakovosti piva, UL RS št.3/03, 45/08-Zkmet-1
	Lahko pivo	Light beer	Max. 3,0 vol%alcohol	(Rules on the quality of beer (Official Gazette of RS, Nos. 3/03 and 45/08 - KME-1)

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Spain	cerveza sin alcohol	alcohol-free beer	< 1% abv	Real Decreto 678/2016 of 16th December
	cerveza de bajo contenido alcohólico	low alcohol beer	from 1 to 3% abv	
	cerveza light/ligera/aligerada	light beer	30% energy reduction	Regulation (EU)1924/2006
Sweden	Alkoholfri	Non alcohol	<0,5% ABV	Alcohol Law and Agreement with Ombudsman regarding advertising : i.e. Self-Regulation
	Lättöl	low alcohol	≤ 2.25% ABV	
	Folköl	medium alcohol	> 2.25% and ≤ 3.5% ABV	
	Starköl	strong alcohol	> 3.5% ABV	
Switzerland	Leichtbier	Light beer	≤3.0% ABV	Verordnung des EDI über alkoholische Getränke
	Kohlenhydratarm	Low carb beer	7.5 g/L calories and ≤4.5% ABV 8-9 ° Plato wort	
	«alkoholfreies Bier», «Bier ohne Alkohol», «entalkoholisiertes Bier»	Alcohol free beer	≤0.5% ABV	Verordnung des EDI über alkoholfreie Getränke (insbesondere Tee, Kräutertee, Kaffee, Säfte, Sirupe, Limonaden)

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Turkey	alcohol free beer	≤0.5% ABV	alcohol free beer	Alcohol Low and Agreement with Ombudsman regarding advertising : i.e. Self-Regulation
	low alcohol	0.5% - 2.8% AB	low alcohol	
	high alcohol content	>6.5% ABV	high alcohol content	
United Kingdom	alcohol-free		<p>Shall not be applied to any alcoholic drink from which the alcohol has been extracted unless</p> <p>a) the drink has an alcoholic strength by volume of not more than 0,05% and</p> <p>b) the drink is marked or labelled with an indication of its maximum alcoholic strength (in one of the forms specified) in regulation 30(1) immediately preceded by the words \"not more than\" or, in an appropriate case, with an indication that it contains no alcohol.</p>	Statutory Instrument 1996 n° 1499 (sunset clause until December 2018 – definitions shall be re-assessed by that date)
	dealcoholised		<p>Shall not be applied to any drink, unless:</p> <p>a) the drink, being an alcoholic drink from which the alcohol has been extracted, has an alcoholic strength by volume of not more than 0.5 per cent, and</p> <p>b) the drink is marked or labelled with an indication of its maximum alcoholic strength (in one of the forms specified) in regulation</p>	

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United Kingdom			30(1) immediately preceded by the words \"not more than\") or, in an appropriate case, with an indication that it contains no alcohol.	
	"low alcohol" or any other word or description which implies that the drink being described is low in alcohol		<p>Shall not be applied to any alcoholic drink unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the drink has an alcoholic strength by volume of not more than 1,2% and b) b) the drink is marked or labelled with an indication of its maximum alcoholic strength (in one of the forms specified) in regulation 30(1) immediately preceded by the words \"not more than\") or, in an 	
	non-alcoholic (only applies to communion wines)		Shall not be used in conjunction with a name commonly associated with an alcoholic drink, except in the composite name “non-alcoholic wine” when that composite name is used in accordance with regulation 43.	

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