

The People's Republic of China

EDICT OF GOVERNMENT

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GB 15269-4 (2010) (English): Cigars - Part
4: Technical requirements for sense
evaluation



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Cigars-Part 4:Technical requirements for sensory evaluation

(Draft for approval)

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PREFACE

Only Part 4.3 of this section is mandatory, the rest are recommendations.

GB1529 ‘cigar’ is divided into four parts:

Part 1. Merchandise classification and technical requirements for sampling;

Part 2. Packaging labelling;

Part 3. Packing, production and technical requirements for storage and transportation;

Part 4. Technical requirements for sensory evaluation;

This section is divided into four parts of GB1529-1994. The section replaces GB1529-1994. The main changes between this section and that of GB1529-1994 are as follows:

- Appendix A of GB1529-1994 (“intrinsic quality of smoking term”) has been removed;
- The number of terms and definitions for sensory evaluation of cigars have increased;
- The technical requirements for sensory evaluation of cigars have been modified;
- The methods for testing sensory evaluation of cigars have been revised;
- The rules for testing sensory evaluation of cigars have been revised;
- The number of technical requirements for sensory evaluation of cigars has increased;

This part is supplied by the State Tobacco Monopoly Administration.

This section is classified by the China Tobacco Standardization Technical Committee (TC144).

This part is drafted by: Sichuan and Chongqing Tobacco Industrial Company, Shandong Tobacco Industry Ltd., China Tobacco Standardization Research Centre, North Beijing Tobacco Quality Supervision, Inspection Station, Hubei Tobacco Industry Ltd, Anhui Tobacco Industrial Corporation.

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The specifications of this part replace those of:

- GB15269-1994:

Cigars Part 4: technical requirements for sensory evaluation

1 Scope

Part GB15269 stipulates the technical requirements, methods for testing and inspection rules for the sensory evaluation of cigars. This section applies to cigars.

2 Normative references

The following clauses within this document become the provisions of this section through part GB15269. No dated references, subsequent amendments (excluding corrections of printed errors) or revisions apply to this section. We do however encourage the parties to reach an agreement as to whether to include this section in the latest version of this document. Please refer to the latest version of this document for any references that are undated.

GB / T 15269.1-XXXX Cigar Part 1: Merchandise classification and technical requirements for sampling

3 Terms and definitions

The following terms and definitions apply to part GB15269.

3.1 Oiliness

The cigar wrapper and filler should be shiny and oily.

3.2 Odour

The cigar smoke should be rich, with a pleasant aroma.

3.3 Purity

The cigar should have a smooth and pure taste.

3.4 Denseness

The cigar should have a dense and intense flavour, with smoke lingering for a long time.

3.5 Harmony

The cigar should have a consistent harmony of flavours, so that no one single odour stands out. If the odour is enhanced, it should be well distributed, meaning equal distribution of the tobacco leaf within the cigar.

3.6 Richness

The cigar should be rich in flavour, but not overpowering.

3.7 Thinness

The cigar should produce a single flavour, which should not linger.

3.8 Harshness

The draw of the cigar smoke should appear granular, billowy and not too fluffy.

3.9 Unpleasant taste

The smoker should experience a slightly uncomfortable, bitter, earthy aroma and taste, which will irritate breathing.

3.10 Irritancy

The cigar smoke should cause slight irritation to the senses, and a singing feeling to the nasal cavity, mouth and larynx.

3.11 Aftertaste

The smoke should leave an aftertaste in the nose and mouth, which should be fluid and not entirely pleasant.

3.12 Purity and cleanness

The inside of the mouth should remain perfectly clean.

3.13 Ash

The cigar should burn consistently, with the burning of the ash at the foot of the cigar contributing to overall quality of the cigar.

3.14 Burning uniformity

The height of the smoke from the cigar should remain constant during burning or smouldering.

3.15 Ash coherence

There should be no gap between the binder and the wrapper during the burning.

3.16 Ash quality

Ash should remain grey and of a detailed complexion throughout the process of burning.

3.17 Odour

There should be no distinct odour of tobacco that would reduce or impair the smoker's ability to breathe (with the exception of certain stronger varieties).

3.18 Mould

There should be no mouldy aroma, of the sort that would impair the smoker's ability to breathe.

3.19 Local circulation smoking method

By which the smoker uses only some of their senses to evaluate the taste of the cigar. Draw into the mouth slowly, and then after a pause, exhale slowly through the mouth and nose.

[YC / T 138-1998, definition 3.10]

3.20 Overall circulation smoking method

By which the smoker uses all of their senses to evaluate the taste of the cigar.
Pass through the larynx, swallow and slowly release.
[YC / T 138-1998, Definition 3.11]

4 Technical requirements

4.1 The sensory quality of cigars is evaluated using a percentile score system, and is split into a number of separate evaluation categories, illustrated in Table 1 on the following page:

Table 1. Categories of sensory quality of cigars

Colouration		Odour		Unpleasant Taste		Irritancy		Aftertaste		Ash	
Indicators	Maximum score	Indicators	Maximum score	Indicators	Maximum score	Indicators	Maximum score	Indicators	Maximum score	Indicators	Maximum score
Consistent colour, shine and oiliness	10	Significant yet mellow odour, rich concentration, harmonious	36	None	12	None	14	Pure, comfortable, fluid, slightly bitter.	22	Burns evenly, close to the foot of the cigar, a fine grey/white colour	6
Fairly consistent colour, some shine and oiliness	7	Less distinctive, though more prominent odour, a little rough, fairly harmonious	27	Some	9	Much	11	Quite comfortable, fluid and bitter.	17	Burns fairly evenly, quite close to the foot, the ash is somewhat darker	4
Colour is not consistent. Less oily sheen.	4	Prominent odour, though not distinctive, thin, rough, fairly harmonious.	18	Much	6	Significant	8	Somewhat pure comfortable, fluid and bitter.	12	Burns inconsistently, not close to the foot, black/grey in colour	2

4.2 The total score for the sensory quality of cigars is based on the design values (for these design values, see GB / T 15269.1 - × × × × of 4.9) and the deviation in quality should be no less than 4 points.

4.3 There should be no noticeable smell or sign of mould.

5 Test methods

5.1 Preparation of laboratory samples should be made in accordance with the requirements of Part 6.1.2, through GB/T15269.1-XXXX.

5.2 The temperature for test conditions should be 16° C - 25° C, with a humidity of 65% - 75%, and room conditions no less than 72h.

5.3 The local circulation method should be used for evaluating full-sized cigars. The full cigar circulation method should be used for evaluating miniature cigars

5.4 Sensory evaluation can be completed in Table 2 below. There should be no less than five people participating in the evaluation process for each cigar. Manufacturers can also take part in the evaluation.

Table 2. Original records for cigar sensory quality inspection

Item		Colour and shine (10)						Odour (36)	Unpleasant taste (12)	Irritancy (14)	Aftertaste (22)	Ash (6)			Total								
		Colour (6)			Shine (4)							Congealing at foot, burning consistency, appearance of ash											
		I	II	III	I	II	III					I	II	III		I	II	III					
Sample No	Brand	6	4	2	4	3	2	36	27	18	12	9	6	14	11	8	22	17	12	6	4	2	
Comments:																							
Examiner:																		Year /		Month /		Date	

6. Test categories

Part 4.3 of this section will be referred to as category A, while Part 4.2 of this section will be referred to as category B. Cigar evaluation is divided into type inspection, factory inspection and monitoring supervision. Type inspection should include all items. Monitoring supervision should be carried out according to the relevant requirements set by bodies of tobacco quality control investigation organisations. As a rule, category A tends to be used most commonly. Factory inspections are carried out according to industrial quality control requirements for testing their own content. In order to ensure product quality, category A class should be tested at the very least.

7 Conducting inspection

7.1 Sensory quality is scored out of 100, with the best score being 100 points.

7.2 Half-points are rounded up into units.

7.3 Each item is evaluated according to six different categories: colour and shine, odour, unpleasant taste, irritancy, aftertaste and ash.

7.4 When evaluating the cigar's colour and shine, both the wrapper and the filler should be taken into account.

7.5 Results

7.5.1 Results and statistics are calculated by equation (1) to calculate individual average score, accurate to 0.01.

$$X_i = \Sigma X_i / n \quad \text{..... equation (1)}$$

Where:

ΣX_i ----- total of all the scores for an item

n ----- number of people examining the item

X_i ----- the average score for an item

7.5.2 The sensory quality score is accurate to 0.1.

7.5.3 Any apparent odour or signs of mould shall result in a sensory quality score of zero.

7.6 If a product fails to meet the requirements of Parts 4.2 or 4.3 through type testing or through factory inspection, then the batch of cigars shall be recorded as unsuitable.

References

[1] YC / T 138-1998, Procedures for sense quality evaluation of tobacco and tobacco products