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**Paper bags — Specification**



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This African Standard was prepared by ARSO/TC 14, Food packaging and labelling.

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ARSO Central Secretariat  
International House 3rd Floor  
P. O. Box 57363 — 00200 City Square  
NAIROBI, KENYA

Tel. +254-20-2224561, +254-20-3311641, +254-20-3311608

E-mail: [arso@arso-oran.org](mailto:arso@arso-oran.org)

Web: [www.arso-oran.org](http://www.arso-oran.org)

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ARSO Central Secretariat  
International House 3rd Floor  
P.O. Box 57363 — 00200 City Square  
NAIROBI, KENYA

Tel: +254-20-2224561, +254-20-3311641, +254-20-3311608

E-mail: [arso@arso-oran.org](mailto:arso@arso-oran.org)  
Web: [www.arso-oran.org](http://www.arso-oran.org)

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## **Introduction**

<Text indicating rationale for the development/harmonization of the standard>

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## Paper bags — Specification

### 1 Scope

This Draft African Standard specifies requirements, sampling and test methods for gusseted paper bags which are intended primarily for packaging and/or carrying items.

### 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

*ISO 535, Paper and board — Determination of water absorptiveness — Cobb method*

*ISO 536, Paper and board — Determination of grammage*

*ISO 1974, Paper — Determination of tearing resistance — Elmendorf method*

*ISO 2758, Paper — Determination of bursting strength*

*ARS -1711 Paper and board food contact packaging material*

*ISO 11093-4, Paper and board — Testing of cores — Part 4: Measurement of dimensions*

*ISO 7023:1983 Packaging - Sacks - Method of sampling empty sacks for testing.*

*ISO 6590-1, Packaging — Sacks — Vocabulary and types — Part 1: Paper sacks*

*ISO 8367-1 Packaging — Dimensional tolerances for general purpose sacks — Part 1: Paper sacks*

*ISO 6591-1, Packaging - Sacks – Description and method of measurement - Part 1: Empty paper Sacks*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purpose of this standard the terms and definitions defined in ISO 6590-1 apply.

### 4 Requirements

#### 4.1 General requirements

The material (paper) used for making the paper bag shall be free from physical, chemical, biological and allergenic hazards and other defects that may affect its appearance or impair its service ability (or both) and may be bleached or unbleached.

#### 4.2 Specific requirements

##### 4.2.1 Paper

The material used shall comply with the requirements given in Table 1 when tested in accordance with the methods specified therein.

If the paper bag is intended to come in contact with food, the paper shall comply with requirements of ARS -1711.

Table 1 — Specific requirements of the paper

S/No	Parameters	Requirement	test method
i	Grammage, g/m <sup>2</sup> , min.	50	ISO 536
ii	Bursting strength, kPa, min.	90	ISO 2758
iii	Tearing resistance (MD), mN, min.	320	ISO 1974
iv	Water absorptiveness, g/m <sup>2</sup> , min.	25 – 30	ISO 535

*Note: Requirements in Table 1 applies to bags of all ply.*

#### 4.2.2 Adhesive

The adhesive used in the manufacture of the bags shall be food-grade, nontoxic and gummed seams/joints shall comply with the requirements of 4.2.3.3

#### 4.2.3 Bag construction

##### 4.2.3.1 Style

Bags shall be designed as agreed between the manufacturer and purchaser

##### 4.2.3.2 Size

The size of the paper bags may be as given in Table 2 and any other sizes as agreed between the manufacturer/supplier and the purchaser with a tolerance as indicated in ISO 8367-1 when tested according to ISO 6591-1

Table 2 — Dimension of paper bags

Size designation	Width, mm	Gusset, mm	Height of the bag, mm
¼	60 - 70	35 - 45	160 - 170
½	70 - 80	45 - 55	170 - 200
1	85 - 95	50 - 60	170 - 185
2	95 - 105	55 - 70	220 - 230
3	115 - 125	70 - 80	230 - 245
4	115 - 125	70 - 90	250 - 260
5	130 - 140	75 - 85	260 - 280



6	145 - 155	85 - 95	275 - 287
8	160 - 170	90 - 105	290 - 320
10	160 - 175	85 - 120	330 - 350
12	175 - 185	105 - 115	335 - 350
14	195 - 205	110 - 120	355 - 385
16	195 - 205	110 - 120	385 - 410
20	205 - 215	115 - 130	415 - 425
25	205 - 215	115 - 130	470 - 480

#### 4.2.3.3 Closures

The side seam/joint of the bag shall be gummed down continuously all over the full length of the seam. The overlaps of the closure of the rectangular bottom shall be gummed such that when the contents are in powder form, it's impossible for the contents to leak out through the overlaps.

## 5 Packaging and labelling

### 5.1 Packaging

Paper bags shall be packaged in suitable packages that prevent them from external environment and damage during transportation, storage

### 5.2 Labelling

**5.2.1** Each bag shall be legibly and indelibly marked with the following information:

- name and physical address of the manufacturer and importer, and/or registered trade mark;
- grammage of paper in grams per metre square;
- size designation and carrying capacity of the bags;
- country of origin/manufacturer.
- Batch/code number.

**5.2.2** Where the bags above have been packaged into a bulk pack, the outer side of the pack shall be legibly and indelibly marked with the name of the product and number of paper bags per package in addition to the information contained in 5.2.1.

## 6 Sampling

Sampling shall be done in accordance with ISO 7023.

**Annex A  
(informative)**

**Examples of paper bags**



**Figure A.1 — Typical examples of the paper bag**

## Bibliography

[1] KS 2523:2014, Paper bags —Specification

[2]

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