

Summary of 2008 Changes to the 2004 Style Guidelines

1. Added chart explaining how color descriptors were mapped to SRM values.
2. Made sure references to other style categories within the guidelines were consistent.
3. Updated style parameters (OG, FG, ABV) to be mathematically consistent and to use a more accurate Plato-to-Specific Gravity formula.
4. Removed '+' signs and comments from style parameters; comments on style parameters are now in the Comments section. This will better allow the style numbers to be used in databases or calculations.
5. Revised commercial examples, removing examples no longer available or no longer good examples of the style, adding new examples, updating the ordering reflecting the best current examples of the style.
6. Described some pale lager styles as having a pils malt character.
7. Significant rework on many Belgian styles (especially Saison and Bière de Garde), to bring the guidelines into agreement with more modern reference works (especially the three Belgian beer books published by Brewers Publications).
8. Revised the ingredients and comments sections of many Belgian styles to reflect more accurate information on recipes and methods.
9. Dried out many Belgian styles, especially Saison and Tripel. Adjusted IBUs in Belgian styles as well.
10. Dried out Imperial IPA.
11. Minor tweaks on some styles to reflect more accurate style profiles (Munich Helles, Dortmunder Export, Bohemian Pilsener, Munich Dunkel, Kölsch, American Wheat/Rye, Düsseldorf Altbier, Southern English Brown Ale, Baltic Porter, Foreign Extra Stout, American IPA, Imperial IPA, Witbier, Berliner Weisse, Flanders Red, Flanders Brown, Rauchbier) – these updates were generally from direct brewery visits, discussions with authentic brewmasters, and local research.
12. Clarified the differences within the Foreign Extra Stout category (Tropical vs. Export).
13. Changed references from candi sugar to caramelized sugar syrup.
14. Clarified alcohol character in some beers of high alcohol content.
15. Removed American Stock Ale variant from Imperial IPA and moved to Specialty.
16. Clarified where certain unusual beers should be entered (chile beers, nut beers, wood-aged beers where underlying style is already wood-aged, etc.).
17. Clarified base style declaration requirements in Specialty Beer category.
18. Listed minor beer styles that are examples of styles that can be entered in Belgian Specialty Ale and Specialty Beer categories.
19. Updated definition of sweetness levels for meads.
20. Clarified that chocolate, coffee and nut-based meads should be entered as metheglins.
21. Reformatted style chart to be more legible.
22. Added more historical notes to the Southern English Brown Ale style, based on data from Mann's.