

# WHISKY-LOVERS-ENCYCLOPEDIAE

## THE PPM OF PEATED WHISKY: A MISLEADING NUMBER?

### Short version

The phenol ppm figures displayed by whisky distilleries often refer to the level in the peated malt, rather than in the final whisky.

Between the malt and the bottle, mashing, fermentation, distillation, and maturation significantly reduce phenolic compounds. As a result, a whisky announced at 50 ppm may in reality contain far less in the glass.

This practice, common for marketing reasons, does not reflect the actual sensory perception.

The Torabhaig Distillery now publishes two values: one for the distillate and one for the final whisky, offering greater transparency. Laboratories can measure the bottled whisky, making this approach technically straightforward.

Enthusiasts today seek precise information about whisky production and chemistry. Communicating only the malt phenol level therefore becomes somewhat anachronistic. The truly relevant figure is the phenol level in the whisky in the glass, not in the malt entering the distillery.

Publishing this final value would enhance the understanding of peated whiskies without diminishing their mystery.

Dr Patoche

