



# TURNKEY SOLUTIONS FOR NONALCOHOLIC CIDER

Schmidt® SIGMATEC Dealcoholization System

# Health Trends and Millennials Driving Demand for Zero-Alcohol Beverages

## API's SIGMATEC Technology Delivers 0.0% Alcohol Beverages and Superior Taste

In recent years, nonalcoholic beverages have been growing in popularity. Today's consumers are seeking healthier options as evidenced by the significant decline of soda consumption due to its high sugar content and link to obesity. Bottled water and juice have become more popular options, particularly among millennials, and this group is driving the sales of no- and low-alcohol beverages as well. Statistics from the 2015 National Survey on Drug Use and Health found that more than 40% of 18- to 25-year-olds reported not having had an alcoholic beverage in the previous month. Nonalcoholic beverages are growing in popularity because it evokes a lifestyle image more sophisticated than that of sodas and juices, fitting the social image that many people want to project about themselves.

Processes designed to dealcoholize beverages have been around for more than 30 years, but consumers did not always accept these products. These low-alcohol products were not the highest quality and had a less than pleasing taste, but better technology and experimentation with ingredients, strongly influenced by craft brewing, has changed that. With the right technology, removing the alcohol no longer means removing the flavor.

API Heat Transfer's Schmidt brand is the technological leader and original patent holder for the vacuum rectification process used to make no-alcohol beverages. This method of dealcoholization better maintains the natural qualities of beverages compared to the traditional process of filtering out the alcohol. API's exclusive SIGMATEC process is the only system capable of producing 0.0% beverages.

The technology can be used to produce beverages with a final alcohol level of 0.0% at a capacity of 2.5 to 4.2 barrels a day.

## SIGMATEC Procedure

Vacuum rectification is the core engineering principle behind SIGMATEC technology. This proprietary dealcoholization process guarantees a very gentle separation of the alcohol from a diverse range of alcoholic products and can be tailored to a customer's product.

For example, consider beer dealcoholization. The first step is decarbonization. Next, the SIGMATEC process removes the alcohol from the product in its rectification column, the design of which is exclusive to API Heat Transfer, resulting in better flavor and a reduction in alcohol content to below 0.05%. Nearly all competitive processes for beverage dealcoholization end here, but the SIGMATEC process includes further treatment to achieve 0.0% alcohol.

While the product is in the rectification column, alcohol-rich vapors are condensed and cooled at a low temperature in the top of the column. These alcohol-rich vapors can be concentrated up to 85% and stored in a tank in the form of industrial alcohol. The result is a saleable product that can be marketed immediately.

SIGMATEC plants have capacities ranging from 2 to 200 barrels per hour. The technology is environmentally friendly with regard to both water and energy resources. It is also adaptable for various products and formulations.

The technology advances made by API's SIGMATEC modular dealcoholizing plants are becoming increasingly attractive to smaller breweries as well as craft breweries. Today, the SIGMATEC dealcoholization system is used in more than 100 plants around the world.

## Process Optimization

From the beginning, API Heat Transfer with its Schmidt brand has successfully established itself as the market leader in innovative and energy efficient equipment, and its engineers continue to develop and optimize the SIGMATEC process. For instance, new dual-stage cooling replaces 80% of glycol with cooling water, thereby reducing operating expenses. For a plant with 100 hl/h, the savings amounts to about 1,000 kW.

Advancements in control technology are enabling operators more flexibility in plant operations. Operators can continuously adjust the performance of their plant via a PLC (Programmable Logic Control) touch screen controller HMI (Human Machine Interface) within a power range of 50-100% without having to make a single mechanical adjustment. A PLC control with ethernet capability and real-time data displays enables operators to monitor performance and avoid premature cleanings, extending the intervals between cleanings and reducing the costs for energy, CIP (Clean-in-Place) products, water and downtime.

Furthermore, automated controls have optimized the maintenance procedures. Startup, cleaning, and shutdown of the plant have improved, saving thousands of liters of water per cleaning cycle.

To learn more about API's exclusive SIGMATEC process or how it can be incorporated into your plant, please email [sales@apiheattransfer.com](mailto:sales@apiheattransfer.com) or call (877) 274-4328.

### Below are the primary advantages of the SIGMATEC process:

- Consistent product quality via continuous running and efficient separation technology
- Ability to decrease alcoholic content to 0.05% or 0.0%, and >20% is possible after adding the alcohol, if desired
- Gentle treatment of the product due to low process temperatures resulting in low thermal stress
- Dealcoholization of beverages minimizes product loss versus concentration
- Patented Aroma Recovery Unit enables aroma components and flavors to be recovered and directed back into the beverage
- Aroma Recovery Unit is a closed steam loop and does not use plant steam, so no boiler chemicals can contaminate the final product or alter the flavor profile
- Fully automatic operation independent of the plant capacity throughout startup, production, CIP and shutdown
- Low maintenance costs because no releasing agent is required
- Concentration of alcohol up to 85%, which can be marketed as a new product
- Capacity scope of 2-200 hl/h product feed

# Schmidt® SIGMATEC Dealcoholization System

Capacity: 2 hl/h - 200 hl/h

For Breweries, Wineries,  
And Fruit/Cider Production

## Areas of Application

With more than 30 years of experience in dealcoholization, Schmidt® SIGMATEC has become the market leader worldwide. With the experience gained in supplying a large number of dealcoholizing plants, our SIGMATEC design has become highly refined.

To date, SIGMATEC systems have been manufactured for a scope of capacity ranging from 2 hl/h to 200 hl/h.

### Breweries

Wheat beer, Pils, Pale Ale, Lager, Dunkel, Stout

### Wineries

White/Red Wine, Sparkling Wine, Mulled Wine

### Fruit/Cider Production

Perry, Cider

### Other Industries

Alcoholic Liquids, Extracts



## Advantages of the Process

- Dealcoholization under 0.05% alc/vol
- Cost-Effectiveness
  - minimum volume loss
  - alcohol concentration up to 85% alc/vol, hence a valuable, marketable by-product
  - fully automatic operation
  - low energy consumption
  - low maintenance cost
- Careful Handling of Product
  - low processing temperature
  - short holding time
- Environmentally Beneficial and Advantageous in the Conservation of Resources
- Optional Aroma Recovery
- Optional Dosing of Base Product
- Optional CIP System
- Optional Desulfurization of Grape Juice

## Technical Versions

### Materials and Specifications

Materials of Columns and Tanks:	All Current Stainless Steels
Column Internals:	Exclusively designed, custom structured packing and distribution
Column Diameters:	Dn 200 to Dn 2,000
Heating System:	Direct Steam or Hot Water

### Capacity Data

Feed Capacity:	2 hl/h - 200 hl/h (Beer)
Steam Consumption:	15 - 18 kg/hl
Cooling Capacity:	10 - 12 kw/h
Average Temperature:	40 - 80°C
Alcohol Concentration at Inlet:	0.75 - 15% alc/vol
Final Concentration of Alcohol:	40 - 85% alc/vol

# A world of heat transfer solutions

API Heat Transfer's global presence includes manufacturing facilities, R&D locations, and sales support throughout the world, all focused on one goal—to better serve our customers.



For more information about our heat transfer products, contact our API Heat Transfer sales representative or visit [apiheattransfer.com](http://apiheattransfer.com) or [apiheattransfer.de](http://apiheattransfer.de)

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