

Assessors for sensory analysis —

Part 2: Guide to the selection, training and monitoring of experts

Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by the Consumer Products and Services Sector Board to Technical Committee AW/12, upon which the following bodies were represented:

- AFRC Institute of Food Research
- British Food Manufacturing Industries Research Association
- British Psychological Society
- Campden Food and Drink Research Association
- Coffee Trade Federation Ltd.
- Consumers' Association
- Department of Trade and Industry (Laboratory of the Government Chemist)
- Flour Milling and Baking Research Association
- Institute of Food Science and Technology
- Institute of Masters of Wine
- Institute of Statisticians
- Joint Committee of the Milk Marketing Board and the Dairy Trade Federation
- Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
- Society of Chemical Industry
- Society of Cosmetic Scientists
- University of Birmingham
- University of Bristol
- University of Reading
- University of Strathclyde

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National foreword

This Part of BS 7667 has been prepared under the direction of the Consumer Products and Services Sector Board. It is identical with ISO 8586-2:1994 *Sensory analysis — General guidance for the selection, training and monitoring of assessors — Part 2: Experts*, published by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and in the preparation of which the United Kingdom played a full part

Cross-references

International standard	Corresponding British Standard
ISO 5492:1992	BS 5098:1992 <i>Glossary of terms relating to sensory analysis</i> (Identical)
ISO 6658:1985	BS 5929 <i>Methods for sensory analysis of food</i> Part 1:1986 <i>General guide to methodology</i> (Identical)
ISO 8586-1:1993	BS 7667 <i>Assessors for sensory analysis</i> Part 1:1993 <i>Guide to the selection, training and monitoring of selected assessors</i> (Identical)

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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, pages 1 to 8, an inside back cover and a back cover.

This standard has been updated (see copyright date) and may have had amendments incorporated. This will be indicated in the amendment table on the inside front cover.

Introduction

0.1 Sensory assessment may be made by three different types of assessor, referred to as “assessors”, “selected assessors” and “experts” as in ISO 5492. The selection, training and monitoring of selected assessors is the subject of ISO 8585-1. This part of ISO 8586 is concerned with experts.

0.2 Assessors who are designated selected assessors work as a panel and are not responsible for the choice of tests used, the presentation of the samples or for the interpretation of results. These matters are the responsibility of the panel leader who also decides how much information is given to the panel. Monitoring is by comparison with the panel as a whole.

0.3 There are two types of expert: expert assessors and specialized expert assessors.

An **expert assessor** will have demonstrated particular acuity in panel work, and will have developed a good long-term sensory memory, permitting reliable comparative judgements, when necessary, in the absence of control samples.

A **specialized expert assessor** will, however, draw on additional knowledge gained in other fields, such as knowledge of the product to be assessed, and process or marketing experience, in order to interpret sensory data and make deductions.

0.4 This part of ISO 8586 is concerned mainly with the principles of selecting for, training in and monitoring of sensory ability and sensory memory, with only guidelines on monitoring of performance, which should always be checked regularly.

Although it should not be necessary to make specific reference to the methods of training which are applied in particular commercial trades, a few illustrations are given in the annexes to show the range of approaches.

1 Scope

This part of ISO 8586 describes criteria for choosing people with particular sensory skills from selected assessors or from product, process or marketing specialists who themselves satisfy the selection criteria specified in ISO 8586-1. It gives principles and procedures for expanding their knowledge and abilities to the levels required for experts assessors. It supplements the information given in ISO 6658.

2 Normative references

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this part of ISO 8586. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this part of ISO 8586 are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the standards indicated below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 5492:1992, *Sensory analysis — Vocabulary*.

ISO 6658:1985, *Sensory analysis — Methodology — General guidance*.

ISO 8586-1:1993, *Sensory analysis — General guidance for the selection, training and monitoring of assessors — Part 1: Selected assessors*.

3 Definitions

For the purposes of this part of ISO 8586, the definitions given in ISO 5492 and the following definitions apply.

NOTE 1 The differences between the various types of assessor are summarized in Table 1, together with examples of the ways in which they may perform their tasks.

3.1 assessor (sensory)

Any person taking part in a sensory test.

3.1.1

naïve assessor

a person who does not meet any particular criterion

3.1.2

initiated assessor

a person who has already participated in a sensory test

3.2

selected assessor

assessor chosen for his/her ability to carry out a sensory test

3.3 expert

In the general sense, a person who through knowledge or experience has competence to give an opinion in the fields about which he/she is consulted.

NOTE 2 In sensory analysis there are two types of expert, the expert assessor and the specialized expert assessor. These are further defined in 3.3.1 and 3.3.2.

3.3.1

expert assessor

selected assessor with a high degree of sensory sensitivity and experience in sensory methodology, who is able to make consistent and repeatable sensory assessments of various products