

ISO

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION

ISO RECOMMENDATION R 212

ESSENTIAL OILS
SAMPLING

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BRIEF HISTORY

The ISO Recommendation R 212, *Essential Oils. Sampling*, was drawn up by Technical Committee ISO/TC 54, *Essential Oils*, the Secretariat of which is held by the Repartição de Normalização (IGPAI).

Work on this question by the Technical Committee began in 1952 and led in 1953 to the adoption of a first Draft ISO Recommendation.

This first Draft ISO Recommendation (No. 56) was circulated to all the ISO Member Bodies for enquiry. As the results of this consultation were not considered satisfactory, the Technical Committee presented a second Draft ISO Recommendation, which was circulated to all the Member Bodies in July 1959 and which was approved, subject to a few modifications of an editorial nature, by the following Member Bodies:

Australia	Israel	Portugal
Belgium	Italy	Romania
Burma	Japan	Sweden
Chile	Mexico	Turkey
Czechoslovakia	Netherlands	United Kingdom
Germany	New Zealand	U.S.S.R.
India	Poland	Yugoslavia

One Member Body opposed the approval of the Draft:

France.

The Draft ISO Recommendation was then submitted by correspondence to the ISO Council, which decided, in September 1961, to accept it as an ISO RECOMMENDATION.

ESSENTIAL OILS

SAMPLING

1. PURPOSE

Samples are drawn for the purpose of determining the organoleptic, physical and chemical characteristics of consignments of essential oils.

This ISO Recommendation lays down general guidance for the sampling of essential oils.

2. DEFINITION

By *sampling* a consignment of an essential oil is meant collecting a small portion (called the sample) representative of the properties and composition of the consignment of the sampled essential oil.

3. METHOD

The difficulties encountered in sampling are often considerable and depend upon such factors as the number and capacity of the containers, the physical state of the substance, the presence of solid natural constituents and separated impurities.

In order to obtain a representative sample, the procedure may have to be varied considerably. Sampling should consequently be entrusted to experienced personnel able to cope with unforeseen circumstances.

Samples should be packed in hermetically stoppered glass containers. In order to comply with international agreements on the carriage of dangerous products, the head space should be between 5 per cent and 10 per cent of the volume of the container, depending on the method of transport adopted.

It is recommended that all samples be transported with special care, that they be kept in a cool place and protected from light and from excessive variations of temperature.