

Sensory analysis - Methodology - Triangle test

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English Version

Sensory analysis - Methodology - Triangle test (ISO 4120:2004)

Analyse sensorielle - Méthodologie - Essai triangulaire (ISO 4120:2004)

Sensorische Analyse - Prüfverfahren - Dreiecksprüfung (ISO 4120:2004)

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Foreword

The text of ISO 4120:2004 has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 34 "Agricultural food products" of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and has been taken over as EN ISO 4120:2007 by Technical Committee CEN/SS C01 "Food Products", the secretariat of which is held by CMC.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by January 2008, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by January 2008.

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Endorsement notice

The text of ISO 4120:2004 has been approved by CEN as EN ISO 4120:2007 without any modifications.

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1 Scope

This International Standard describes a procedure for determining whether a perceptible sensory difference or similarity exists between samples of two products. The method is a forced-choice procedure. The method is applicable whether a difference exists in a single sensory attribute or in several attributes.

The method is statistically more efficient than the duo-trio test (described in ISO 10399), but has limited use with products that exhibit strong carryover and/or lingering flavours.

The method is applicable even when the nature of the difference is unknown [i.e. it determines neither the size nor the direction of difference between samples, nor is there any indication of the attribute(s) responsible for the difference]. The method is applicable only if the products are fairly homogeneous.

The method is effective for

- a) determining that
 - either a perceptible difference results (triangle testing for difference), or
 - a perceptible difference does not result (triangle testing for similarity) when, for example, a change is made in ingredients, processing, packaging, handling or storage;
- b) or for selecting, training and monitoring assessors.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 5492:1992, *Sensory analysis — Vocabulary*

ISO 8589:1988, *Sensory analysis — General guidance for the design of test rooms*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 5492 and the following apply.

3.1

alpha-risk

α -risk

probability of concluding that a perceptible difference exists when one does not

NOTE This is also known as Type I error, significance level or false positive rate.