
Essential oils — Principles of nomenclature

Huiles essentielles — Principes de nomenclature



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ISO copyright office
Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Geneva 20
Tel. + 41 22 749 01 11
Fax + 41 22 749 09 47
E-mail copyright@iso.org
Web www.iso.org

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: Foreword - Supplementary information

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 54, *Essential oils*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 3218:1976), which has been technically revised.

Essential oils — Principles of nomenclature

1 Scope

This International Standard lays down the principles to be adopted for designating essential oils in English and French, e.g. for the labelling and/or the marking.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in 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 4720, *Essential oils — Nomenclature*

3 Principles

3.1 Unless stated otherwise, the principles set out below are applicable in both English and French. In each example, the English term is given first and is followed by the corresponding French term in brackets.

The name of the essential oil shall be sufficiently clear and unequivocal so that there is no risk of confusion regarding:

- the botanical origin of the plant;
- the part of the plant used;
- its phenological stage;
- the processing operations, if any, prior to obtaining the essential oil (predrying, fermentation, etc.);
- the method of obtaining the essential oil.

These remarks only concern the name of the essential oil. The correct botanical name of the species and if necessary, of the plant variety, as well as the details relating to the origin and the method of production of the essential oil are given in the corresponding international standards, in the Scope and Terms and definitions clauses.

As far as the botanical name is concerned, refer to ISO 4720.

3.2 In order to distinguish essential oils from fatty oils, the expression “Essential oil of ... [Huile essentielle de ...]” shall be used to describe the former.

NOTE ISO/TC 54 decided to adopt the terminology “Essential oil of ...” instead of “Oil of ...” for all the international standards published by the committee. This change will be introduced progressively when reviewing the international standards and for all new drafts.

3.3 The words “Essential oil of... [Huile essentielle de ...]” will be followed by the commonly accepted common name of the plant and plant part if several plant parts may deliver essential oils (see also [3.7](#)).

EXAMPLE 1 Essential oil of lavender [Huile essentielle de lavande].

EXAMPLE 2 Essential oil of parsley fruits [Huile essentielle de fruits de persil].