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МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ПО СТАНДАРТИЗАЦИИ

Sensory analysis — Methodology — "A" - "not A" test

Analyse sensorielle — Méthodologie — Essai «A» - «non A»

Reference number
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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.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for approval before their acceptance as International Standards by the ISO Council. They are approved in accordance with ISO procedures requiring at least 75 % approval by the member bodies voting.

International Standard ISO 8588 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 34, *Agricultural food products*.

Users should note that all International Standards undergo revision from time to time and that any reference made herein to any other International Standard implies its latest edition, unless otherwise stated.

Sensory analysis — Methodology — ‘A’ - ‘not A’ test

1 Scope and field of application

This International Standard describes the ‘A’ - ‘not A’ test for use in sensory analysis :

- a) as a difference test, particularly for evaluating samples having variations in appearance (making it difficult to obtain strictly identical repeat samples) or in after-taste (making direct comparison difficult);
- b) as a recognition test, particularly for determining whether an assessor or group of assessors identifies a new stimulus in relation to a known stimulus (for example recognition of the quality of the sweet taste of a new sweetener);
- c) as a perception test, to determine the sensitivity of an assessor to a particular stimulus.

Examples of its application are given in annex A.

2 References

ISO 3534, *Statistics — Vocabulary and symbols*.

ISO 5492 (Parts 1 to 6), *Sensory analysis — Vocabulary*.

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

ISO 8589, *Sensory analysis — General guidance for the design of test rooms*.¹⁾

3 Definitions

For the purpose of this International Standard, the definitions given in the various parts of ISO 5492, for terms concerning sensory analysis, and in ISO 3534, for statistical terms, apply.

4 Principle

Presentation to an assessor of a series of samples, some of which are composed of sample ‘A’ while others are different from sample ‘A’; for each sample, the assessor has to determine whether or not it is identical to ‘A’.

This test requires the assessor to have evaluated a known sample ‘A’ prior to the exposure to test samples.

5 Apparatus

The apparatus shall be selected by the test supervisor, according to the nature of the product to be analysed, the number of samples, etc., and shall in no way affect the test results.

If standard apparatus corresponds to the needs of the test, it shall be used.

6 Sampling

Refer to sampling standards for the sensory analysis of the product or products for testing.

In the absence of such standards, agreement shall be sought between the parties concerned.

7 General test conditions

7.1 Test room

The characteristics of the room in which the tests are to be carried out form the subject of ISO 8589. See also ISO 6658.

7.2 Assessors

7.2.1 Qualification, selection, arrangement

The conditions with which the assessors shall comply will form the subject of a future International Standard.

All the assessors shall have the same level of qualification. This qualification shall be chosen in accordance with the object of the test.

7.2.2 Number of assessors

The number of assessors to be used depends on the object of the test, and on the required significance level.

1) At present at the stage of draft.