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## **Sensory analysis — General guidance for the design of test rooms**

*Analyse sensorielle — Directives générales pour la conception de locaux destinés à l'analyse*

Reference number  
ISO 8589:1988 (E)

## 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.

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 8589 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 34, *Agricultural food products*.

# Sensory analysis — General guidance for the design of test rooms

## 1 Scope

This International Standard gives general guidance for the design of test rooms intended for the sensory analysis of food products.

It describes the requirements to set up a test room comprising a testing area, a preparation area and an office, specifying those that are essential or those that are merely desirable.

## 2 Principle

Design of test rooms used to conduct sensory evaluations under constant, controlled conditions with a minimum of distractions, to reduce the effects that psychological factors and physical conditions can have on human judgement.

## 3 Creation of test rooms

The creation of test rooms intended for sensory analysis differs depending on whether a new building or whether an existing facility is used.

A typical test room comprises

- a testing area in which work may be carried out individually in testing booths and in groups,
- a preparation area,
- an office,
- a cloak-room,
- a rest-room, and
- toilets.

The minimum requirements are

- a testing area in which work may be carried out individually in testing booths and in groups, and
- a preparation area.

The test room shall be easily accessible to the assessors and shall not be located in an area where there is heavy traffic flow, in order to avoid noise and distraction (for example, near a cafeteria).

See the examples given in figures 1 to 4.

## 4 Testing area

### 4.1 General requirements

#### 4.1.1 Location

The testing area shall be located in the immediate vicinity of the preparation area. It is convenient if these two areas are adjacent, but they shall be separated.

The assessors shall not enter or leave the testing area through the preparation area as this could result in bias in the test results.

#### 4.1.2 Temperature and relative humidity

The temperature and relative humidity in the testing area shall be constant, controllable and shall be perceived as comfortable by the assessors.

#### 4.1.3 Noise

The noise level shall be kept to a minimum during the tests. Therefore, it is desirable for the room to be sound-proof.

#### 4.1.4 Odours

The testing area shall be kept free from odours. This can be achieved by installing an air conditioner with activated carbon filters. If necessary, a slight positive pressure may be created in the testing area to reduce the inflow of air from other areas. The testing area shall be constructed from material which is easy to clean and is both odour free and impervious to odours. Furnishings and equipment such as carpets, chairs, etc. shall not emit odours.

It is also necessary to ensure that the cleaning agents used do not leave odours in the testing area.

#### 4.1.5 Decoration

The colour of the walls and furnishings of the testing area shall be neutral so that the colour of samples is not modified. Matt off-white or light neutral grey are recommended colours.

#### 4.1.6 Lighting

Lighting is very important in all sensory testing. It is especially important in the case of colour assessment. The ambient