INTERNATIONAL STANDARD 212

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Essential oils — Sampling

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FOREWORD

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards institutes (ISO Member Bodies). The work of developing International Standards is carried out through ISO Technical Committees. Every Member Body interested in a subject for which a Technical Committee has been set up 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.

Prior to 1972, the results of the work of the Technical Committees were published as ISO Recommendations; these documents are now in the process of being transformed into International Standards. As part of this process, Technical Committee ISO/TC 54 has reviewed ISO Recommendation R 212 and found it suitable for transformation. International Standard ISO 212 therefore replaces ISO Recommendation R 212-1961.

ISO Recommendation R 212 was approved by the Member Bodies of the following countries :

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

The Member Bodies of the following countries have subsequently approved this Recommendation :

Philippines
South Africa, Rep. of

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0 INTRODUCTION

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.

1 SCOPE AND FIELD OF APPLICATION

This International Standard specifies procedures for sampling consignments of essential oils for the purpose of determining their organoleptic, physical and chemical characteristics.

2 DEFINITION

For the purposes of this International Standard, the following definition applies :

sampling : The collecting of a small portion (called the sample) representative of the properties and composition of the consignment of the sampled essential oil.

3 IMPLEMENTS

All implements intended for the preparation of samples shall be washed and dried before use and shall be, if possible, of standard types.

The implements shall be made of a material that is not attacked by the essential oil to be sampled.

Examples of suitable implements are :

3.1 Implements for liquid essential oils

3.1.1 Agitators

3.1.2 Syringes

3.1.3 Thiefs

3.1.4 Core samplers

3.1.5 Zone samplers

3.1.6 Cocks

3.1.7 Pumps

3.1.8 Siphons

3.2 Implements for solid or pasty essential oils

3.2.1 Spatulas

3.2.2 Triers

3.2.3 Half-round triers

3.3 Containers for samples

Glass containers shall be used, and shall be protected from breakage and light. These containers shall be of such capacity that they may be filled as specified in 4.5. They shall be hermetically sealed with a cork suitably protected, if necessary, by tinfoil or by parchment.

For pasty or solid substances, the containers shall have wide necks.

4 PROCEDURE

4.1 Inspection

The first operation of the sampling procedure is inspection of the consignment.

The physical consistency of essential oils can be one of the following :

- liquid (occurring most frequently);
- solid;
- a mixture of liquid and solid;
- pasty.

It is desirable, where possible, to ascertain whether the material in each of the containers of the consignment is uniform in appearance and, in the case of a liquid, whether any or all of the consignments contain separated solids, water or other impurities. When, owing to the nature of the