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Sensory analysis — Methodology — General guidance for establishing a sensory profile

*Analyse sensorielle — Méthodologie — Directives générales pour
l'établissement d'un profil sensoriel*



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ISO copyright office
Ch. de Blandonnet 8 • CP 401
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel. +41 22 749 01 11
Fax +41 22 749 09 47
copyright@iso.org
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 34, *Food products*, Subcommittee SC 12, *Sensory analysis*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 13299:2003), which has been technically revised by presenting the principles and methods in general, including some new ones, which are developed in the annexes.

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Introduction

The purpose of this International Standard is to serve as guidance for establishing sensory profiles performed by trained assessors.

A sensory profile is the result of a descriptive analysis of a sample by a panel of assessors. The sample may be for example food, beverage, tobacco product, cosmetic, textile, paper, packaging, sample of air or water, etc. Profiling can be carried out in a number of ways. Over the years, a few of these have been formalized and codified as descriptive procedures by professional societies or by groups of producers and users for the aim of improving communication between themselves.

The purpose of this International Standard is to provide agreed guidelines for descriptive sensory procedures.

Sensory profiling is the description of sensory properties of a sample, usually consisting in the evaluation of sensory attributes with assignment of an intensity value for each attribute. The attributes are generally evaluated in the order of perception. Some sensory profiles take a view across all of the senses; others (partial profiles) concentrate in detail on particular senses.

Quality of results depends on the number of assessors and their ability to describe their perceptions. Training and development of a common language help to improve these abilities. Some methods have been used with untrained assessors, but it is out of the scope of this International Standard. Quality of results can also depend on the number of replications by an assessor.