
Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made to Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2568/91. Any changes that have already been made to the legislation appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)

Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2568/91 of 11 July 1991 on the characteristics of olive oil and olive-residue oil and on the relevant methods of analysis

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made to Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2568/91. Any changes that have already been made to the legislation appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

[^{F1}ANNEX I

OLIVE OIL CHARACTERISTICS

Textual Amendments

F1 Substituted by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1604 of 27 September 2019 amending Regulation (EEC) No 2568/91 on the characteristics of olive oil and olive-residue oil and on the relevant methods of analysis.

Quality characteristics

Category	Acidity(*)	Peroxide value(mEq O ₂ /kg)	K ₂₃₂	K ₂₆₈ or K ₂₇₀	Delta-K	Organoleptic evaluation		Fatty acid ethyl esters(mg/kg)
						Median of defect (Md) (*)	Fruity median (Mf)	
1. Extra virgin olive oil	≤ 0,80	≤ 20,0	≤ 2,50	≤ 0,22	≤ 0,01	Md = 0,0	Mf > 0,0	≤ 35
2. Virgin olive oil	≤ 2,0	≤ 20,0	≤ 2,60	≤ 0,25	≤ 0,01	Md ≤ 3,5	Mf > 0,0	—
3. Lampante olive oil	> 2,0	—	—	—	—	Md > 3,5 ^a	—	—
4. Refined olive oil	≤ 0,30	≤ 5,0	—	≤ 1,25	≤ 0,16	—	—	—
5. Olive oil composed of refined olive oil and virgin olive oils	≤ 1,00	≤ 15,0	—	≤ 1,15	≤ 0,15	—	—	—

a The median of defect may be less than or equal to 3,5 when the fruity median is equal to 0,0.

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made to Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2568/91. Any changes that have already been made to the legislation appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

6.	Crude olive-pomace oil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Refined olive-pomace oil	≤ 5,0	—	≤ 2,00	≤ 0,20	—	—	—
8.	Olive-pomace oil	≤ 15,0	—	≤ 1,70	≤ 0,18	—	—	—

a The median of defect may be less than or equal to 3,5 when the fruity median is equal to 0,0.

Purity characteristics

Category	Fatty acid composition ^a						Total trans isomers (%) ^b	Total trans + translinolenic isomers (%)	Stigmas dienes (mg/kg) ^b	Difference: (mg N42 glyceryl monopalmitate (%) (HPLC) and ECN42 (theoretical calculation))	
	Myristic (%)	Palmitic (%)	Stearic (%)	Linoleic (%)	Arachidic (%)	Docosahexaenoic (%)				≤ 0,20	≤ 0,9 if total palmitic acid % ≤ 14,00 % ≤ 1,0 if total palmitic acid % > 14,00 %
1.	≤ 0,03	≤ 1,00	≤ 0,60	≤ 0,50	≤ 0,20	≤ 0,20	≤ 0,05	≤ 0,05	≤ 0,05	≤ 0,20	≤ 0,9 if total palmitic acid % ≤ 14,00 % ≤ 1,0 if total palmitic acid % > 14,00 %
2.	≤ 0,03	≤ 1,00	≤ 0,60	≤ 0,50	≤ 0,20	≤ 0,20	≤ 0,05	≤ 0,05	≤ 0,05	≤ 0,20	≤ 0,9 if total palmitic acid % ≤ 14,00 %

a Other fatty acids content (%): palmitic: 7,50-20,00; palmitoleic: 0,30-3,50; heptadecanoic: ≤ 0,40; heptadecenoic ≤ 0,60; stearic: 0,50-5,00; oleic: 55,00- 83,00; linoleic: 2,50-21,00.

b Total isomers which could (or could not) be separated by capillary column.

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made to Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2568/91. Any changes that have already been made to the legislation appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

											14,00 %
											≤ 1,0 if total palmitic acid % > 14,00 %
3.	≤ 0,03 Lampante olive oil	≤ 1,00	≤ 0,60	≤ 0,50	≤ 0,20	≤ 0,20	≤ 0,10	≤ 0,10	≤ 0,50	≤ 0,30	≤ 0,9 if total palmitic acid % ≤ 14,00 %
											≤ 1,1 if total palmitic acid % > 14,00 %
4.	≤ 0,03 Refined olive oil	≤ 1,00	≤ 0,60	≤ 0,50	≤ 0,20	≤ 0,20	≤ 0,20	≤ 0,30	—	≤ 0,30	≤ 0,9 if total palmitic acid % ≤ 14,00 %
											≤ 1,1 if total palmitic acid % > 14,00 %
5.	≤ 0,03 Olive oil composed of	≤ 1,00	≤ 0,60	≤ 0,50	≤ 0,20	≤ 0,20	≤ 0,20	≤ 0,30	—	≤ 0,30	≤ 0,9 if total palmitic

a Other fatty acids content (%): palmitic: 7,50-20,00; palmitoleic: 0,30-3,50; heptadecanoic: ≤ 0,40; heptadecenoic ≤ 0,60; stearic: 0,50-5,00; oleic: 55,00- 83,00; linoleic: 2,50-21,00.

b Total isomers which could (or could not) be separated by capillary column.

ANNEX I

Document Generated: 2024-07-04

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made to Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2568/91. Any changes that have already been made to the legislation appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

	refined olive oil and virgin olive oils										acid % ≤ 14,00 %
6.	≤ 0,03 Crude olive-pomace oil	≤ 1,00	≤ 0,60	≤ 0,50	≤ 0,30	≤ 0,20	≤ 0,20	≤ 0,10	—	≤ 0,60	≤ 1,4
7.	≤ 0,03 Refined olive-pomace oil	≤ 1,00	≤ 0,60	≤ 0,50	≤ 0,30	≤ 0,20	≤ 0,40	≤ 0,35	—	≤ 0,50	≤ 1,4
8.	≤ 0,03 Olive-pomace oil	≤ 1,00	≤ 0,60	≤ 0,50	≤ 0,30	≤ 0,20	≤ 0,40	≤ 0,35	—	≤ 0,50	≤ 1,2

a Other fatty acids content (%): palmitic: 7,50-20,00; palmitoleic: 0,30-3,50; heptadecanoic: ≤ 0,40; heptadecenoic ≤ 0,60; stearic: 0,50-5,00; oleic: 55,00- 83,00; linoleic: 2,50-21,00.

b Total isomers which could (or could not) be separated by capillary column.

Category	Sterols composition						Total sterols (mg/kg) ^a (%)	Erythrodiol and uvaol (%) ^(**)	Waxes (mg/kg) ^(**)
	Cholesterol (%)	β-sitosterol (%)	Campesterol (%)	Stigmasterol (%)	App (β-sitosterol) (%)	Delta-7-stigmasterol ^b (%)			
1.	≤ 0,5 Extra virgin olive oil	≤ 0,1	≤ 4,0	< Camp.	≥ 93,0	≤ 0,5	≥ 1 000	≤ 4,5	C ₄₂ + C ₄₄ + C ₄₆ ≤ 150
2.	≤ 0,5 Virgin olive oil	≤ 0,1	≤ 4,0	< Camp.	≥ 93,0	≤ 0,5	≥ 1 000	≤ 4,5	C ₄₂ + C ₄₄ +

a See the Appendix to this Annex.

b App β-sitosterol: Delta-5,23-stigmastadienol+clerosterol+beta-sitosterol+sitostanol+delta-5-avenasterol+delta-5,24-stigmastadienol.

c Oils with a wax content of between 300 mg/kg and 350 mg/kg are considered to be lampante olive oil if the total aliphatic alcohol content is less than or equal to 350 mg/kg or if the erythrodiol and uvaol content is less than or equal to 3,5 %.

d Oils with a wax content of between 300 mg/kg and 350 mg/kg are considered to be crude olive-pomace oil if the total aliphatic alcohol content is above 350 mg/kg and if the erythrodiol and uvaol content is greater than 3,5 %.

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made to Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2568/91. Any changes that have already been made to the legislation appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

									$C_{46} \leq 150$
3.	< 0,5 Lampante olive oil	$\leq 0,1$	$\leq 4,0$	—	$\geq 93,0$	$\leq 0,5$	$\geq 1\ 000$	$\leq 4,5^c$	$C_{40} +$ $C_{42} +$ $C_{44} +$ $C_{46} \leq$ 300^c
4.	< 0,5 Refined olive oil	$\leq 0,1$	$\leq 4,0$	< Camp.	$\geq 93,0$	$\leq 0,5$	$\geq 1\ 000$	$\leq 4,5$	$C_{40} +$ $C_{42} +$ $C_{44} +$ $C_{46} \leq$ 350
5.	< 0,5 Olive oil composed of refined olive oil and virgin olive oils	$\leq 0,1$	$\leq 4,0$	< Camp.	$\geq 93,0$	$\leq 0,5$	$\geq 1\ 000$	$\leq 4,5$	$C_{40} +$ $C_{42} +$ $C_{44} +$ $C_{46} \leq$ 350
6.	< 0,5 Crude olive- pomace oil	$\leq 0,2$	$\leq 4,0$	—	$\geq 93,0$	$\leq 0,5$	$\geq 2\ 500$	$> 4,5^d$	$C_{40} +$ $C_{42} +$ $C_{44} +$ $C_{46} >$ 350^d
7.	< 0,5 Refined olive- pomace oil	$\leq 0,2$	$\leq 4,0$	< Camp.	$\geq 93,0$	$\leq 0,5$	$\geq 1\ 800$	$> 4,5$	$C_{40} +$ $C_{42} +$ $C_{44} +$ $C_{46} >$ 350
8.	< 0,5 Olive- pomace oil	$\leq 0,2$	$\leq 4,0$	< Camp.	$\geq 93,0$	$\leq 0,5$	$\geq 1\ 600$	$> 4,5$	$C_{40} +$ $C_{42} +$ $C_{44} +$ $C_{46} >$ 350

a See the Appendix to this Annex.

b App β -sitosterol: Delta-5,23-stigmastadienol+clerosterol+beta-sitosterol+sitostanol+delta-5-avenasterol+delta-5,24-stigmastadienol.

c Oils with a wax content of between 300 mg/kg and 350 mg/kg are considered to be lampante olive oil if the total aliphatic alcohol content is less than or equal to 350 mg/kg or if the erythrodiol and uvaol content is less than or equal to 3,5 %.

d Oils with a wax content of between 300 mg/kg and 350 mg/kg are considered to be crude olive-pomace oil if the total aliphatic alcohol content is above 350 mg/kg and if the erythrodiol and uvaol content is greater than 3,5 %.

Changes to legislation: *There are outstanding changes not yet made to Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2568/91. Any changes that have already been made to the legislation appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Notes:

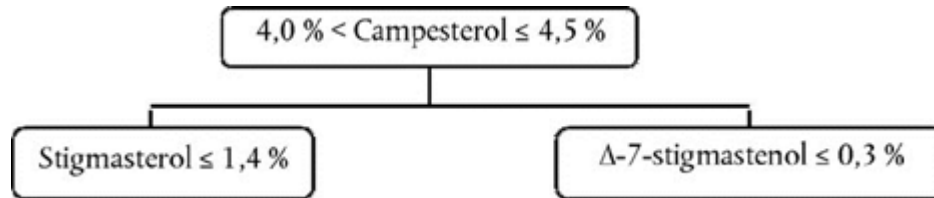
- (a) The results of the analyses must be expressed to the same number of decimal places as used for each characteristic. The last digit must be increased by one unit if the following digit is greater than 4.
- (b) If just a single characteristic does not match the values stated, the category of an oil can be changed or the oil is declared non-compliant for the purposes of this Regulation.
- (c) For lampante olive oil, both quality characteristics marked with an asterisk (*) may differ simultaneously from the limits established for that category.
- (d) If a characteristic is marked with two asterisks (**), this means that for crude olive-pomace oil, it is possible for both the relevant limits to be different from the stated values at the same time. For olive-pomace oil and refined olive-pomace oil one of the relevant limits may be different from the stated values.

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made to Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2568/91. Any changes that have already been made to the legislation appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)

Appendix

Decision trees

Campesterol decision tree for virgin and extra virgin olive oils:



The other parameters shall comply with the limits fixed in this Regulation.

Delta-7-stigmastenol decision tree for:

— Extra virgin and virgin olive oils

The other parameters shall comply with the limits fixed in this Regulation.

— Olive-pomace oils (crude and refined)

The other parameters shall comply with the limits fixed in this Regulation.]

Changes to legislation:

There are outstanding changes not yet made to Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2568/91. Any changes that have already been made to the legislation appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole legislation item and associated provisions

- Signature words omitted by [S.I. 2019/1422 reg. 6\(10\)](#)
- Art. 1(8) inserted by [S.I. 2019/1422 reg. 6\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- Art. 1(8)(a)(ii)(bb) omitted in earlier amending provision S.I. 2019/1422, reg. 6(2)(b) by [S.I. 2020/1453 reg. 14\(16\)\(a\)\(i\)](#)
- Art. 1(8)(b) words substituted in earlier amending provision S.I. 2019/1422, reg. 6(2)(b) by [S.I. 2020/1453 reg. 14\(16\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
- Art. 1(8)(c)(ii) omitted in earlier amending provision S.I. 2019/1422, reg. 6(2)(b) by [S.I. 2020/1453 reg. 14\(16\)\(a\)\(iii\)](#)
- Annex 1a para. 1.1 words substituted by [S.I. 2019/1422 reg. 6\(11\)\(a\)](#)
- Annex 1a para. 1.2 words substituted by [S.I. 2019/1422 reg. 6\(11\)\(b\)](#)
- Art. 2a(3)(e) words substituted by [S.I. 2019/1422 reg. 6\(4\)\(c\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 6(4)(c) substituted immediately before IP completion day by S.I. 2020/1453, regs. 1(2)(b), 14(16)(c)(ii))
- Art. 2a(3)(e) words substituted by S.I. 2019/1422, reg. 6(4)(c) (as substituted) by [S.I. 2020/1453 reg. 14\(16\)\(c\)\(ii\)](#)
- Art. 3 words substituted by [S.I. 2019/1422 reg. 6\(5\)\(a\)](#)
- Art. 3 words substituted by [S.I. 2019/1422 reg. 6\(5\)\(b\)](#)