

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

[^{F1}Article 2

1 The characteristics of oils laid down in Annex I shall be determined in accordance with the following methods of analysis:

- a for the determination of the free fatty acids, expressed as the percentage of oleic acid, the method set out in Annex II;
- b for the determination of the peroxide index, the method set out in Annex III;
- c for determination of the wax content, the method set out in Annex IV;
- d for the determination of the composition and content of sterols and triterpene dialcohols by capillary-column gas chromatography, the method set out in Annex V;
- e for the determination of the percentage of 2- glyceryl monopalmitate, the method set out in Annex VII;
- f for spectrophotometric analysis, the method set out in Annex IX;
- [^{F2}g for the determination of the fatty acid composition, the method set out in Annex X;]*
- h for the determination of the volatile halogenated solvents, the method set out in Annex XI;
- i for the evaluation of the organoleptic characteristics of virgin olive oil, the method set out in Annex XII;
- j for the determination of stigmastadienes, the method set out in Annex XVII;
- k for determining the content of triglycerides with ECN42, the method set out in Annex XVIII;
- [^{F3}l for the determination of the composition and content of sterols and for the determination of alcoholic compounds, by capillary column gas chromatography, the method set out in Annex XIX;]*
- m for the determination of the content of waxes, fatty acid methyl esters and fatty acid ethyl esters, the method set out in Annex XX.

[^{F4}]

2 Verification by national authorities or their representatives of the organoleptic characteristics of virgin oils shall be effected by tasting panels approved by the Member States.

The organoleptic characteristics of an oil as referred to in the first subparagraph shall be deemed consonant with the category declared if a panel approved by the Member State confirms the grading.

[^{F3}Should the panel not confirm the category declared as regards the organoleptic characteristics, at the interested party's request, the national authorities or their representatives shall have two counter-assessments by other approved panels carried out without delay. At least one of the panels shall be a panel approved by the producer Member State concerned. The characteristics concerned shall be deemed consonant with the characteristics declared if the two counter-assessments confirm the declared grade. If this is not the case, regardless of the type of defects determined during the counter-assessments, the grading shall be declared inconsistent with the characteristics and the interested party shall be responsible for the cost of the counter-assessments.]

3 When the national authorities or their representatives verify the characteristics of the oil as provided for in paragraph 1, samples shall be taken in accordance with international standards EN ISO 661 on the preparation of test samples and EN ISO 5555 on sampling.

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](#)

However, notwithstanding point 6.8 of standard EN ISO 5555, in case of batches of such oils in immediate packaging, the sample shall be taken in accordance with Annex Ia to this Regulation. In case of bulk oils for which the sampling cannot be performed according to EN ISO 5555, the sampling shall be performed in accordance with instructions provided by the competent authority of the Member State.

Without prejudice to standard EN ISO 5555 and Chapter 6 of standard EN ISO 661, the samples taken shall be put in a dark place away from strong heat as quickly as possible and sent to the laboratory for analysis no later than the fifth working day after they are taken, otherwise the samples shall be kept in such a way that they will not be degraded or damaged during transport or storage before being sent to the laboratory.

4 For the purposes of the verification provided for in paragraph 3, the analyses referred to in Annexes II, III, IX, XII and XX and, where applicable, any counter-analyses required under national law, shall be carried out before the minimum durability date in case of packaged products. In case of sampling of bulk oils, those analyses shall be carried out no later than the sixth month after the month in which the sample was taken.

No time limit shall apply to the other analyses provided for in this Regulation.

Unless the sample was taken less than two months before the minimum durability date, if the results of the analyses do not match the characteristics of the category of olive oil or olive-pomace oil declared, the party concerned shall be notified no later than one month before the end of the period laid down in the first subparagraph.

5 For the purpose of determining the characteristics of olive oils by the methods provided for in the first subparagraph of paragraph 1, the analysis results shall be directly compared with the limits laid down in this Regulation.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Substituted by [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) No 1348/2013 of 16 December 2013 amending Regulation \(EEC\) No 2568/91 on the characteristics of olive oil and olive-residue oil and on the relevant methods of analysis.](#)
- F2** Substituted by [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2015/1833 of 12 October 2015 amending Regulation \(EEC\) No 2568/91 on the characteristics of olive oil and olive-residue oil and on the relevant methods of analysis.](#)
- F3** 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.](#)
- F4** Deleted by [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2015/1833 of 12 October 2015 amending Regulation \(EEC\) No 2568/91 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.

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- Art. 2(2) words omitted by [S.I. 2019/1422 reg. 6\(3\)\(a\)\(i\)\(aa\)](#)
- Art. 2(2) words substituted by [S.I. 2019/1422 reg. 6\(3\)\(a\)\(i\)\(bb\)](#)
- Art. 2(2) words substituted by [S.I. 2019/1422 reg. 6\(3\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
- Art. 2(2) words substituted by [S.I. 2019/1422 reg. 6\(3\)\(a\)\(iii\)](#)
- Art. 2(2) words substituted in earlier amending provision S.I. 2019/1422, reg. 6(3)(a)(i)(bb) by [S.I. 2020/1453 reg. 14\(16\)\(b\)](#)
- Art. 2(3) words substituted by [S.I. 2019/1422 reg. 6\(3\)\(b\)\(i\)](#)
- Art. 2(3) words substituted by [S.I. 2019/1422 reg. 6\(3\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#)

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\(5\)\(b\)](#)