
Essential oils — General rules for labelling and marking of containers

*Huiles essentielles — Règles générales d'étiquetage et de marquage des
récipients*

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ISO/TR 211:1999

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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 main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards, but in exceptional circumstances a technical committee may propose the publication of a Technical Report of one of the following types:

- type 1, when the required support cannot be obtained for the publication of an International Standard, despite repeated efforts;
- type 2, when the subject is still under technical development or where for any other reason there is the future but not immediate possibility of an agreement on an International Standard;
- type 3, when a technical committee has collected data of a different kind from that which is normally published as an International Standard (“state of the art”, for example).

Technical Reports of types 1 and 2 are subject to review within three years of publication, to decide whether they can be transformed into International Standards. Technical Reports of type 3 do not necessarily have to be reviewed until the data they provide are considered to be no longer valid or useful.

ISO/TR 211, which is a Technical Report of type 2, was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 54, *Essential oils*.

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This document is being issued in the Technical Report (type 2) series of publications (according to subclause G.3.2.2 of part 1 of the ISO/IEC Directives, 1995) as a “prospective standard for provisional application” in the field of essential oils because there is an urgent need for guidance on how standards in this field should be used to meet an identified need.

This document is not to be regarded as an “International Standard”. It is proposed for provisional application so that information and experience of its use in practice may be gathered. Comments on the content of this document should be sent to the ISO Central Secretariat.

A review of this Technical Report (type 2) will be carried out not later than three years after its publication with the options of: extension for another three years; conversion into an International Standard; or withdrawal.

This first edition of ISO/TR 211 cancels and replaces ISO/R 211:1961, which has been technically revised.

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Essential oils — General rules for labelling and marking of containers

1 Scope

This Technical Report specifies the general rules for labelling and marking of containers for essential oils to enable identification of the contents.

2 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this Technical Report, the following terms and definitions apply.

2.1 labelling

process that permits the identification and characterization of the contents of a container by means of a label, a necklace, an inscription, etc., which does not form part of the container

2.2 marking

process that permits the identification and characterization of the contents of a container by means of a mark, a stamp or a picture, which forms part of the container

3 General

Because labels may be totally or partially destroyed, marking is preferred, particularly for large-volume containers (e.g. barrels, tins).

However, labels may be convenient for small containers which are used to contain reference samples or test samples.

The material from which the labels are manufactured shall be sufficiently durable to withstand the transport conditions.

The labels shall be fixed by means of a process which renders their replacement impossible, as well as prevents their subsequent use for other purposes.

The marking shall be affixed directly onto the container by a process which makes it durable and indelible.

4 Requirements

Labelling and/or marking shall:

- be easily understandable;
- figure in a visible location;
- be clearly legible and indelible.

Labelling and/or marking shall not:

- be dissimulated by any other lettering or pictures;
- be likely to mislead the purchaser regarding the properties, nature, identity, quality, composition, shelf-life, source, provenance, method of manufacture or requirements;
- display effects or properties which the essential oil does not have.

5 Items to be labelled or marked

Labelling and/or marking shall bear the following statements:

- a) the commercial name of the essential oil, botanical name (Latin name including the botanical authority) of the plant and part of the plant from which it is obtained [4];
- b) the name or tradename and the address of the manufacturer or distributor;
- c) the production process or any particular treatment (e.g. distillation, fractionation, expression, etc.);
- d) the percentage of the main constituent if the commercial value of the essential oil depends on it;
- e) the gross mass, tare and net mass;
- f) the specific conditions of preservation (such as storage temperature), whether the essential oil has been decanted and the instructions for use;
- g) the batch number or the manufacturing date, which provides all information about the origin and the method of production of the essential oil, in case of dispute or nonconformity with the specifications;
- h) the country of origin or the provenance;
- i) the symbols and the indications of hazards relating to the substance and the indications of the particular risks (following the national or international regulations in force in the countries concerned) [1] [2];
- j) the flashpoint for storage, if any, in a place reserved for flammable products;
- k) and, for essential oils for human consumption:
 - the shelf-life date up until which the essential oil retains all its properties [3];
 - if need be, the component or component group content, the addition of which is quantitatively limited in food products, following regulations in force in the countries concerned, or any other indication allowing the purchaser to comply with these regulations.

Bibliography

- [1] Council directive, 7 June 1988, on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States relating to the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous preparations (88/379/EEC).
- [2] Food and Drugs Administration, 21 CSR — Part 1 (701) relating to labelling of cosmetic products.
- [3] Decree 91-366, 11 April 1991 relating to the aromas intended for use in foodstuffs. Official Journal of the French Republic, 17 April 1991, modified by the decree 92-814 dated 17 August 1992, published in the Official Journal of the French Republic, 22 August 1992.
- [4] ISO 4720:1992, *Essential oils — Nomenclature*.

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