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**Essential oils — General requirements  
for labelling and marking of  
containers**

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

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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 document 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](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

ISO draws attention to the possibility that the implementation of this document may involve the use of (a) patent(s). ISO takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of any claimed patent rights in respect thereof. As of the date of publication of this document, ISO had not received notice of (a) patent(s) which may be required to implement this document. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information, which may be obtained from the patent database available at [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents). ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 54, *Essential oils*.

This first edition cancels and replaces ISO/TS 211:2014, which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- title has been updated;
- [Clause 2](#) (Normative references) has been added;
- bibliography has been revised.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

# Essential oils — General requirements for labelling and marking of containers

## 1 Scope

This document specifies the general requirements for the labelling and marking of containers for essential oils to enable the identification of the contents.

## 2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

## 3 Terms and definitions

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

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

### 3.1 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

### 3.2 marking

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

## 4 General

Because the labels may be totally or partially destroyed, marking is preferred, particularly for large volume containers such as barrels and tins.

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

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 and also prevents their subsequent use for other purposes.

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

## 5 Requirements

Labelling and/or marking shall:

- be easily understandable;

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- figure in a visible location;
- be in proper size which is 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.

### 6 Items to be labelled or marked

Labelling and/or marking shall bear the following information:

- 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<sup>[4]</sup>;
- b) the name or trade name and the address of the manufacturer or the distributor;
- c) the production process or any particular treatment: 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 non-conformity 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

NOTE 1 National or international regulations in force can apply<sup>[1][2]</sup>.

- j) the flash point for storage, if any, in a place reserved for flammable products;
- k) for essential oils for human consumption:
  - the shelf-life date up until which the essential oil retains all its properties<sup>[3]</sup>;
  - if necessary, the component or component group content, the addition of which is quantitatively limited in food products.

NOTE 2 Legal regulations in force or other indications allowing the purchaser to comply with these regulations can apply.

## Bibliography

- [1] Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and the Council dated 16 December 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, amending and repealing Directives 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC, and amending Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006
- [2] Food and Drugs Administration — 21 CFR — Part 1 (701) relating to labelling of cosmetic products
- [3] Decree 91-366 dated 11 April 1991 relating to the aromas intended for use in foodstuffs, published in the Official Journal dated 17 April 1991, modified by the decree 92-814 dated 17 August 1992, published in the French Official Journal dated 22 August 1992
- [4] ISO 4720, *Essential oils — Nomenclature*

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