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# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD



# 3218

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## Essential oils — Principles of nomenclature

*Huiles essentielles — Principes de nomenclature*

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## FOREWORD

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards institutes (ISO Member Bodies). The work of developing International Standards is carried out through ISO Technical Committees. Every Member Body interested in a subject for which a Technical Committee has been set up 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.

Draft International Standards adopted by the Technical Committees are circulated to the Member Bodies for approval before their acceptance as International Standards by the ISO Council.

International Standard ISO 3218 was drawn up by Technical Committee ISO/TC 54, *Essential oils*, and was circulated to the Member Bodies in May 1974.

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It has been approved by the Member Bodies of the following countries :

Belgium	Germany	ISO 3218:1976
Chile	India	South Africa, Rep. of
Czechoslovakia	Italy	Spain
Egypt, Arab Rep. of	Netherlands	Thailand
France	Portugal	Turkey
		Yugoslavia

No Member Body expressed disapproval of the document.

# Essential oils – Principles of nomenclature

## 1 SCOPE AND FIELD OF APPLICATION

This International Standard lays down the principles to be adopted for deriving the English and French names of essential oils.

## 2 PRINCIPLES

The principles listed below are applicable in both English and French, unless otherwise stated. In each example, the English term is given first and is followed by the corresponding French term in brackets.

2.1 To distinguish essential oils from fixed oils, the expression "Oil of . . . [Huile essentielle de . . .]" shall be used to describe the former.

2.2 The commonly accepted trivial name of the plant shall follow the words "Oil of . . . [Huile essentielle de . . .]".

EXAMPLES :

Oil of lavender [Huile essentielle de lavande]

Oil of rosewood [Huile essentielle de bois de rose]

Oil of bergamot [Huile essentielle de bergamote]

2.3 When the plant has no commonly accepted trivial name, the complete botanical name (genus, species and author) shall be used instead :

EXAMPLES :

Oil of *Eucalyptus globulus* Labillardière [Huile essentielle d'*Eucalyptus globulus* Labillardière]

Oil of *Leptospermum citratus* Challinor, Cheel, Penfold [Huile essentielle de *Leptospermum citratus* Challinor, Cheel, Penfold]

When the botanical species includes a number of chemotypes which yield oils of different composition, the principal chemical constituent shall be indicated.

EXAMPLES :

*Eucalyptus dives* Aiton, cineole rich [*Eucalyptus dives* Aiton – riche en cinéole]

*Eucalyptus dives* Aiton, piperitone rich [*Eucalyptus dives* Aiton – riche en pipéritone]

Interspecific hybrids shall appear in the text under their common name; in the definition of the oil the Latin binomials of their parent species (male and female) shall be given, according to the usual rules of botanical nomenclature.

EXAMPLE :

Lavandin (*Lavandula angustifolia* P. Miller × *Lavandula latifolia* (Linnaeus F.) Medikus)

When the oil is obtained from given varieties only, or from clones of one species, the name generally adopted for the variety or the clone shall be given.

EXAMPLES :

Oil of lavender Maillette [Huile essentielle de lavande Maillette]

Oil of lavender Matherone [Huile essentielle de lavande Matherone]

2.4 If more than one part of the plant can be used for the extraction of essential oil, the name of the part employed shall follow the trivial name of the plant, in English, and shall precede the trivial name of the plant, in French.

EXAMPLES :

Oil of clove leaf [Huile essentielle de feuilles de giroflier]

Oil of clove stem [Huile essentielle de griffes de giroflier]

2.5 Because the same trivial name may be given to plants of distinct species coming from different parts of the world, it is often necessary to distinguish the species by indicating the geographical area to which it is indigenous. In such cases, the name of the country or area shall precede the trivial name of the plant, in English, and shall follow the trivial name of the plant, in French.

EXAMPLES :

Oil of Brazilian sassafras [Huile essentielle de sassafras du Brésil]

Oil of North American sassafras [Huile essentielle de sassafras de l'Amérique du Nord]

2.6 Some plants of the same botanical species can occur naturally in different geographical areas. Their essential oils may show different physical and chemical properties. The oils shall be distinguished by adding after the name of the essential oil a comma followed by the name of the geographical area in which it was produced.

EXAMPLES :

Oil of rosemary, France [Huile essentielle de romarin, France]

Oil of rosemary, Spain [Huile essentielle de romarin, Espagne]

On the other hand, plants of the same species may have been introduced into regions other than those in which they originated. While there may exist no morphological differences in such plants, their oils may possess different physical and chemical properties. In this case also, it is important to indicate where the essential oil was produced while still defining the original habitat of the plant. This shall be done by adding in parentheses after the name of the essential oil an indication of the area in which it was produced.

EXAMPLE :

“Oil of Java citronella [Huile essentielle de citronnelle type Java]” indicates only that the oil is produced from the plant known as the Java citronella, i.e. *Cymbopogon nardus* (Linnaeus) W. Waston var. *maha-pengiri* Winter. If it is necessary to indicate where the oil has been produced, a further qualification must be made.

EXAMPLE :

Oil of Java citronella (Formosa) [Huile essentielle de citronnelle type Java (Formose)]

2.7 When there exists more than one means of obtaining the essential oil from a plant, the method actually used shall be indicated after a comma at the end of the descriptive title.

EXAMPLES :

Oil of lemon, Italy, obtained by expression [Huile essentielle de citron d'Italie, obtenue par expression]

Oil of West Indian lime, obtained by expression [Huile essentielle de lime de l'Amérique Centrale, obtenue par expression]

Oil of West Indian lime, obtained by distillation [Huile essentielle de limette de l'Amérique Centrale, obtenue par distillation]

2.8 These remarks cover only the descriptive title. The correct botanical name of the species or variety of the plant, together with a more detailed account of the origin and method of manufacture of the essential oil are given in the relevant International Standard under the headings “Scope and field of application” and “Definition”.

For botanical names, refer to the relevant International Standard or to the more recent works of ISTA and to the *Preliminary Report Importance* of the International Bureau of Plant Taxonomy and Nomenclature, Utrecht, which contains the agreements of the latest International Congresses on Botanics.