



DECISION N° DEC-III.4/116-VI/2022

ADOPTING THE IOC CERTIFICATE FOR THE RECOGNITION OF PHYSICO-CHEMICAL OLIVE OIL TESTING LABORATORIES

THE COUNCIL OF MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLIVE COUNCIL,

Having regard to the 2015 International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives, in particular Article 1 *Objectives of the Agreement* regarding the standardisation of research, and Chapter VI *Standardisation provisions*, in particular with regard to activities for physico- chemical and organoleptic analysis for improving knowledge of the composition characteristics and quality of olive products, with a view to consolidating international standards allowing for:

- Product quality control;
- International trade and development;
- Protection of consumer rights;
- Prevention of fraudulent and misleading practices and adulteration.

Considering the need to ensure the recognition of the ability and proficiency of physico-chemical olive oil testing laboratories, which may be called to intervene in disputes over international transactions of analyses for which the IOC conciliation and arbitration procedure would be used.

Considering the need to update the rules for the award of IOC recognition to physico- chemical olive oil testing laboratories on the basis of the recommendations issued by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) as regards the technical competence of testing laboratories, quality management and quality assurance.

Considering the importance of laboratory accreditation and testing quality for olive oils and olive pomace oils, two types of laboratory recognition shall be awarded (Annex 1): Type A, advanced testing; Type B, residues and contaminants testing.

DECIDES

1. Annual recognition shall be granted or maintained^{1, 2} for physico-chemical olive oil testing laboratories meeting the following conditions and obligations:

1.1. Conditions:

- a) The laboratory submits an application³ for recognition to the IOC Executive Secretariat (ES), which respects any conditions laid down in this regard by each country, specifying the type of recognition requested;
- b) The application for recognition is accompanied by the completed evaluation questionnaire and any other details on the characteristics of the laboratory, its installations, equipment, staff and activities, in addition to a description of any

¹ There are two possible types of recognition (see Annex 1).

² In exceptional cases, such as laboratories performing their country's 'official' control and those supported by the governments of countries that do not have an official laboratory, the IOC may give recognition for some determinations of type A only. This recognition will be considered as basic quality parameters recognition that must be mentioned on the certificate of analysis to be issued by the official laboratory. In addition, the IOC reserves the right to request the laboratory be audited.

³ For company laboratories that analyse their own oils and wish to apply for Type A recognition and do not have ISO 17025 accreditation, the application for recognition must be sent to the IOC Executive Secretariat by the competent authority of their country.



accreditations it has been awarded for olive oil testing, the name of the body issuing such accreditations and the date of issue thereof and, if applicable, whether the laboratory belongs to intercomparison olive oil test schemes;

- c) The laboratory provides proof that it is competent in applying the physico-chemical methods of analysis recommended by the IOC in its trade standard applying to olive oils and olive pomace oils.

In exceptional circumstances where it is officially certified that the country does not have an accreditation body, the Council shall determine other alternatives allowing the laboratory to prove its technical proficiency.

The competence of the laboratory shall be assessed yearly by the IOC in collaboration with an external company selected to this end in accordance with the procedures in force, after hearing the opinion of a technical commission of experts designated by the IOC Executive Secretariat. This commission shall be responsible for:

- (i) laying down the conditions for the test, notably as regards the choice, number (not more than four) and volume of the samples, the analytical parameters for application in duplicate (taken from the determinations set in the IOC trade standard applying to olive oils and olive pomace oils), the date of dispatch of the samples (between March and May), the deadline for the delivery of the results to the IOC Executive Secretariat, and the presentation of the results;
- (ii) issuing an opinion on the competence of the laboratory on the basis of the statistical analysis of the laboratory data after the elimination of any outliers. Competence shall be proven when, on applying the ISO standard relating to the statistical methods used to check laboratory competence in inter-laboratory tests, the results lie within a tolerance interval not exceeding three times the standard deviation in relation to the mean; however, these results shall not be required to be better than the reproducibility values of the method, when fixed. The overall appraisal shall be issued according to the number of false results given by each laboratory for all the determinations required, which must not be more than one-and one-half times the average number of false results;
- (iii) dealing with appeals lodged by laboratories which do not agree with the appraisal of their competence.

1.2. Obligations:

- a) The laboratory shall notify the IOC Executive Secretariat of any change in its accreditation status for olive oils;
- b) It shall notify the Executive Secretariat of any change in its installations, equipment, staff or activities;
- c) It shall use only the methods cited in the current IOC trade standard applying to olive oils and olive pomace oils;
- d) It shall complete the *Declaration of no conflict of interest* form (Annex 2) and submit it together with the application for recognition;
- e) It shall perform any tests of olive oils and olive pomace oils it might be requested to carry out for arbitration, certifications, surveys, check tests or the quality control scheme;
- f) It shall participate in the check tests it is requested to carry out by the IOC Executive Secretariat.



2. The IOC shall be responsible for making use of the results and for dealing with any appeals made by laboratories after the technical commission has issued its opinion. It shall be further responsible, after consultation with the technical commission, for preparing the samples for proficiency check tests or laboratory training tests according to a protocol established in compliance with the relevant international standards.
3. The IOC may grant "provisional" recognition to laboratories in the process of gaining accreditation if they provide a declaration stating that they have initiated steps to obtain accreditation according to ISO 17025 and that such accreditation will be obtained within two years of the date of their application at the most, and they satisfy the other conditions and obligations laid down in this Decision. The IOC Executive Secretariat may check the status and stages accomplished in this process whenever it considers it appropriate to do so.
4. The following conditions must be fulfilled for the use that recognised laboratories make of their recognition and the manner in which it is mentioned:

 - (i) Recognition may only be mentioned for the period and type of testing for which it has been awarded;
 - (ii) The IOC logo may be used provided that the period and type of recognition is specified and that it is used exclusively during that period.
5. In the event of non-fulfilment of the provisions mentioned above, the IOC reserves the right, in the light of the significance of the breach, to withdraw or suspend the recognition of the laboratory concerned and to publish this decision on the IOC website; such decision may not generate any financial compensation.
6. With a view to ensuring the technical proficiency of laboratories holding or applying for recognition, the IOC reserves the right to provide laboratories with guidance to check they comply with or continue to comply with the necessary requirements.
7. This IOC certificate for the recognition of physico–chemical olive oil testing laboratories shall become applicable on the date on which this Decision is adopted.
8. This decision shall replace and revoke decision N°DEC-III.7/114-VI/2021 of 25 November 2021 "Adopting the IOC certificate for the recognition of physico–chemical olive oil testing laboratories". This decision enters into force from 1st January 2025

Jaén (Spain), 30 November 2022

Mr Kaled Musa Al Henefat
Chair of the International Olive Council



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Annex 1

Types of recognition and determinations requested of laboratories according to the types of testing

TYPE A: ADVANCED TESTING
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Free acidity (% m/m expressed in oleic acid)*• Peroxide value (milleq. peroxide oxygen per kg/oil)*• K268/270*• K232*• ΔK^*• Moisture and volatile matter (% m/m)*• Insoluble impurities in light petroleum (% m/m)*• Ethyl esters (mg/kg)• Fatty acids (% methyl esters)• Trans fatty acids (% trans fatty acids)• Sterols (%)• Total sterols (mg/kg)• Phenolic compounds (mg/kg)• Tocopherols (%)• α-tocopherols (%) (mg/kg)• Enhancing the coherence of triglycerides with fatty acids• Waxes (mg/kg)• Aliphatic alcohols (mg/kg)• $\Delta ECN42$• Stigmastadienes (mg/kg)• 2-glycerol monopalmitate (%)• Erythrodiol+uvaol (% total sterols)• Unsaponifiable matter

* This parameter is part of the basic quality parameters recognition

TYPE B: RESIDUES AND CONTAMINANTS TESTING
<ul style="list-style-type: none">. Halogenated solvents (mg/kg). Benzo(a)pyrene, Benzo(a)anthracene, Benzo(b)fluoranthene, Chrysene ($\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$). Heavy metals (mg/kg). Pesticide residues (mg/kg)



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Annex 2

DECLARATION OF NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Full name of the signatory of this declaration:

Laboratory:

Post:

I, the undersigned, declare on my honour that:

- the testing laboratory I represent does not have any conflict of interest nor, to my knowledge, does it have any direct or indirect link with the tasks assigned by the Executive Secretariat of the International Olive Council within the framework of its recognition by the IOC, in particular with the relevant stipulations set forth in this Decision;
- I realise that there is a conflict of interest when any situation is likely to compromise the impartial and objective performance of the tasks assigned, particularly for reasons of economic interests, political or national affinities, family, friendship or emotional ties or any other relevant connection or shared interest;
- I will take any appropriate measures to prevent any situation likely to compromise the impartial and objective performance of the tasks assigned to the laboratory and, in particular, will make sure that the members of the testing laboratory, and the laboratory administration and management, are not in a situation that might give rise to a conflict of interests, and pledge to notify the Executive Secretariat immediately, at any time, if I discover any instance of a direct or indirect conflict of interest.

Signature:

Full name:

Date: