



Brussels, **XXX**  
[...](2022) **XXX** draft

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) .../...**

**of **XXX****

**laying down rules on conformity checks of marketing standards for olive oil and  
methods of analysis of the characteristics of olive oil**

*This draft has not been adopted or endorsed by the European Commission. Any views expressed are the preliminary views of the Commission services and may not in any circumstances be regarded as stating an official position of the Commission.*

# COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) .../...

of **XXX**

## laying down rules on conformity checks of marketing standards for olive oil and methods of analysis of the characteristics of olive oil

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) No 234/79, (EC) No 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 90a(6), points (b) and (c), and Article 91, points (b), (d) and (g), thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 repealed and replaced Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007<sup>2</sup>. Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 lays down rules on marketing standards for olive oil and empowers the Commission to adopt delegated and implementing acts in that respect. In order to ensure the smooth functioning of the olive oil market in the new legal framework, certain rules have to be adopted by means of such acts.
- (2) The experience acquired over the last decade from the implementation of the Union marketing standards for olive oil and from the implementation of conformity checks shows that the regulatory framework needs to be simplified and clarified. Similar and complementary requirements should be revised to avoid duplications and potential inconsistencies.
- (3) Member States should carry out conformity checks aimed to verify whether products referred to in Part VII of Annex VIII to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 conform to the rules laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) .../...<sup>3</sup> [*reference to the delegated act*], and in particular on the conformity of the label with the contents of the container. Introducing minimum control requirements for all Member States should also help to combat fraud. While Member States are best placed to identify and decide which authorities should be responsible for the application of this Regulation, they should inform the Commission of such competent authorities, to ensure appropriate communication with other Member States' respective authorities and with the Commission.

---

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 671.

<sup>2</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 of 22 October 2007 establishing a common organisation of agricultural markets and on specific provisions for certain agricultural products (Single CMO Regulation) (OJ L 299, 16.11.2007, p. 1).

<sup>3</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) [.../...] of [...] [...] (OJ L [...], p. [...]).

- (4) Member States should be required to submit an annual report to the Commission with information on conformity checks carried out during the previous year, in order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of this Regulation. To facilitate the collection and transmission of comparable data, the subsequent compilation of such data into Union-wide statistics and the preparation of reports by the Commission on conformity checks across the Union, a standard model form should be provided for annual reports.
- (5) In order to verify that olive oil complies with the rules laid down in Delegated Regulation (EU) .../... [reference to the delegated act] and maximise the protection of consumers, competent authorities should carry out conformity checks based on a risk analysis.
- (6) Since checks on operators responsible for producing or first placing olive oil on the market must be made in the Member State in which they are established, there should be a procedure for administrative cooperation between the Commission and the Member States where the oil is produced and marketed.
- (7) Within the framework of the checks the Member States should specify the evidence to be provided for the different terms that can be used on the label. Such evidence should include established facts, results of analyses or reliable recordings, and administrative or accounting information.
- (8) Member States should be allowed to approve packaging plants situated on their territory, in order to facilitate the check of the conformity of the product with the mandatory and optional particulars written on the label, in accordance with Delegated Regulation (EU) .../... [reference to the delegated act].
- (9) The characteristics of the different types of olive oil should be determined uniformly throughout the Union. To that end, Union legislation should specify which methods of chemical analysis and organoleptic evaluation should be used. As the Union is a member of the International Olive Council ('IOC'), the methods to be used when performing conformity checks should be those established by the IOC.
- (10) In order to ensure uniformity in the sampling for conformity checks, the method of sampling of olive oil should be set out. In order to ensure that analyses are carried out in the correct conditions and in view of the distances between regions, different time limits should be set for sending samples to the laboratory after sampling.
- (11) Member States should verify the compliance of olive oil placed on the Union market with the characteristics set out in Delegated Regulation (EU) .../... [reference to the delegated act]. As regards the classification of oils, the test results should be compared with the limits set in that Regulation, which take into account the repeatability margins and reproducibility of the analysis methods used.
- (12) The IOC method for the evaluation of the organoleptic characteristics of virgin olive oils includes the setting up of panels of selected and trained tasters. In order to ensure uniformity in the implementation, minimum requirements for the approval of panels should be set out. In view of the difficulties that some Member States encounter in setting up tasting panels, the use of panels in other Member States should be authorised.

- (13) The use of the IOC method for the evaluation of the organoleptic characteristics of virgin olive oils requires that a procedure be available for dealing with cases of discrepancy between the category declared and that assigned by the tasting panel.
- (14) In order to ensure that the system of levies applicable to imports of olive cake and residues functions correctly, a single method for the determination of the oil content of these products should be laid down.
- (15) Member States should lay down penalties for the non-compliances found at national level with the marketing standards for olive oil. Those penalties should be effective, proportionate and dissuasive.
- (16) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee for the Common Organisation of Agricultural Markets,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

*Article 1*  
**Scope**

This Regulation lays down rules on:

- (a) the checks of conformity with marketing standards for the olive oils referred to in Article 2 of Delegated Regulation (EU) .../... and their implementation by operators;
- (b) the cooperation and assistance between competent authorities with regard to the conformity checks referred to in point (a);
- (c) the records to be kept by operators who produce or hold olive oil and the approval of packaging plants;
- (d) the methods of analysis for determining the characteristics of olive oil.

*Article 2*

***Obligations of Member States concerning conformity checks***

- 1. Member States shall carry out conformity checks on olive oil to verify the implementation of the marketing standards laid down in Delegated Regulation (EU) .../... [reference to the delegated act] on the basis of a risk analysis referred to in Article 3.
- 2. Member States shall verify that operators comply with their obligations under Article 5(1).

3. Each Member State shall notify the Commission, in accordance with Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/1183<sup>4</sup> of the name and address of the authority or authorities competent to perform conformity checks in accordance with this Regulation. The Commission shall inform the other Member States and, on request, any interested party of those competent authorities. Member States shall inform the Commission about any changes as they occur.

### *Article 3*

#### *Frequency of conformity checks and risk analysis*

1. For the purposes of this Article, ‘olive oil marketed’ means the total quantity of olive oil that is made available on the market in a Member State and exported from that Member State.
2. Member States shall carry out at least one conformity check per year per thousand tonnes of olive oil marketed on their territory.
3. Member States shall ensure that conformity checks are carried out selectively, based on a risk analysis, and with appropriate frequency, to verify that the olive oil marketed corresponds to the category declared.
4. The criteria to assess the risk are in particular:
  - (a) the category of olive oil within the meaning of Article 2 of Delegated Regulation (EU) .../..., the period of production, its price as compared to other vegetable oils, the blending and packing operations, the storage facilities and conditions, the country of origin, the country of destination, the means of transport or the volume of the lot;
  - (b) the position of the operators in the marketing chain, the volume and value marketed by them, the range of oil categories they place on the market, the type of business carried out such as milling, storage, refining, blending, packaging or retail sale;
  - (c) findings made during previous checks including the number and type of defects found, the usual quality of olive oil marketed, the performance of technical equipment used;
  - (d) the reliability of operators’ quality assurance systems or self-checking systems related to the conformity with marketing standards;

---

<sup>4</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/1183 of 20 April 2017 on supplementing Regulations (EU) No 1307/2013 and (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the notifications to the Commission of information and documents (OJ L 171, 4.7.2017, p. 100).

- (e) the place where the conformity check is carried out, in particular if it is the first point of entry into the Union, the last point of exit from the Union or the place where the oils are produced, packaged, loaded or sold to the final consumer;
  - (f) any other information that might indicate a risk of non-compliance.
5. Member States shall lay down in advance:
- (a) the criteria for assessing the risk of non-conformity of lots;
  - (b) on the basis of a risk analysis for each risk category, the minimum number of operators or lots and quantities which will be subject to a conformity check.
6. Where checks reveal significant irregularities, Member States shall increase the frequency of checks in relation to marketing stage, oil category, origin, or other criteria.

#### *Article 4*

##### ***Cooperation between Member States with regard to conformity checks***

1. If any irregularity is detected and the operator shown on the label is established in another Member State, the Member State concerned shall make a request for verification in accordance with Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1715<sup>5</sup> to the Member State in which the operator appearing on the label is established.
2. In addition to the requirements laid down in Article 16 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1715, the request referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be accompanied by all information needed for the verification, and in particular:
- (a) the date of sampling or purchase of the olive oil in question;
  - (b) the name or business name and address of the operator where the sample was taken or where the olive oil concerned was purchased;
  - (c) the number of batches concerned;
  - (d) a copy of all labels appearing on the packaging of the olive oil concerned;
  - (e) the results of the analysis or of the other comparative expert opinions indicating the methods used and the name and address of the laboratory or expert;
  - (f) where applicable, the name of the supplier of the olive oil in question as declared by the marketing outlet.

---

<sup>5</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1715 of 30 September 2019 laying down rules for the functioning of the information management system for official controls and its system components (the IMSOC Regulation) (OJ L 261, 14.10.2019, p. 37).

3. In addition to the requirements laid down in Article 22 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1715, the Member State to which the request is addressed, shall take samples at the latest before the end of the month following that of the request and verify the indications on the labelling concerned. It shall respond within 3 months from the date of the request.

#### *Article 5*

#### ***Obligations of operators***

1. For the purpose of conformity checks, operators from the mill and up to the bottling stage shall keep entry and withdrawal registers for each category of olive oil they hold.
2. At the request of the Member State in which the operator appearing on the label is established, the operator shall supply documentation with regard to the fulfilment of the requirements referred to in Articles 6, 8 and 10 of Delegated Regulation (EU) .../... [*reference to the delegated act*] based on one or more of the following elements:
  - (a) factual elements or scientifically established facts;
  - (b) results of analyses or automatic recordings taken on representative samples;
  - (c) administrative or accounting information kept in accordance with Union and national rules.

#### *Article 6*

#### ***Optional approval of packaging plants at national level***

1. Member States shall have the possibility to approve packaging plants situated on their territory.
2. When they decide to make use of paragraph 1, Member States shall grant approval and allocate an alphanumeric identification to any packaging plant so requesting, which meets the following conditions:
  - (a) possesses packaging facilities;
  - (b) undertakes to collect and keep the documentation referred to in Article 5;
  - (c) has a storage system which makes it possible to check the provenance of the olive oils for which the labelling of the place of origin is mandatory in accordance with Article 8(1) of Delegated Regulation (EU) .../... [*reference to the delegated act*].
3. When they decide to make use of paragraph 1, Member States shall notify the Commission of the relevant arrangements in accordance with Directive (EU) 2015/1535 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>6</sup>.

---

<sup>6</sup> Directive (EU) 2015/1535 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 September 2015 laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical regulations and of rules on Information Society services (OJ L 241, 17.9.2015, p. 1).

#### *Article 7*

##### ***Methods of analysis used for determining the characteristics of olive oils***

The characteristics of olive oils set out in Annex I to Delegated Regulation (EU) .../... [reference to the delegated act] shall be determined in accordance with methods of analysis set out in Annex I to this Regulation.

#### *Article 8*

##### ***Sampling for conformity checks***

1. Samples for conformity checks shall be taken in accordance with international standards EN ISO 661 on the preparation of test samples and EN ISO 5555 on sampling. However, for batches of packaged olive oil, sampling shall be carried out in accordance with Annex II. In case of bulk oils for which the sampling cannot be performed in accordance with the EN ISO 5555 standard, the sampling shall be performed in accordance with instructions provided by the competent authority of the Member State.
2. Without prejudice to standard EN ISO 5555 and Chapter 6 of standard EN ISO 661, the samples taken shall be put as quickly as possible in a dark place, away from heat and sent to the laboratory for analysis no later than on 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.

#### *Article 9*

##### ***Verification of the characteristics of olive oils***

1. Member States shall verify compliance of the olive oils with the characteristics of olive oils set out in Annex I to Delegated Regulation (EU) .../... [reference to the delegated act]:
  - (a) in any order; or
  - (b) by following the order set out on the flow-chart in Annex III to this Regulation, until one of the decisions appearing in the flow-chart is reached.
2. For the purpose of the verification provided for in paragraph 1, the analyses for the determination of the acidity level, peroxide value K232, K268 or K270,  $\Delta K$ , fatty acid ethyl esters, waxes and the organoleptic characteristics, where applicable, any counter-analyses required under national law shall be carried out before the minimum durability date in case of packaged olive oil. In case of sampling of bulk oils, those analyses shall be carried out within 6 months after the month in which the sample was taken.



3. No time limit shall apply to the verification of other characteristics of olive oil set out in Annex I to Delegated Regulation (EU) .../... [*reference to the delegated act*].
4. For packaged olive oil, unless the sample was taken less than 2 months before the minimum durability date, if the results of the analyses do not match the characteristics of the category of olive oil declared, the operator from which the sample was taken shall be notified no later than one month before the minimum durability date.
5. For the purpose of determining the characteristics of olive oil by the methods set out in Annex I to this Regulation, the results of the analyses shall be directly compared with the limits set out in Annex I to Delegated Regulation (EU) .../... [*reference to the delegated act*], which take into account the repeatability margins and reproducibility of the analysis methods used.
6. The rules of this Article shall apply for each primary sample taken in accordance with Annex II.

*Article 10*  
**Tasting panels**

1. For the purpose of conformity checks, tasting panels, approved by Member States on their territory, shall assess the organoleptic characteristics of virgin olive oils set out in Annex I to Delegated Regulation (EU) .../... [*reference to the delegated act*] and shall report on those characteristics and on the category.
2. The terms of approval of tasting panels shall be set by Member States and ensure that:
  - (a) the requirements of the method referred to in Annex I, point 5 for the determination of the organoleptic characteristics of virgin olive oil are met;
  - (b) the panel head is given training recognised for this purpose by the Member State;
  - (c) continued approval depends on the performance at an annual review of the tasting panel by the Member State.
3. Member States shall notify the Commission, in accordance with Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/1183, of the list of approved tasting panels on their territory and inform the Commission of any change to that list without delay.
4. Where no tasting panel on a Member State's territory fulfils the terms of approval referred to in paragraph 2, the Member State shall call on a tasting panel approved in another Member State.

*Article 11*  
**Verification of the organoleptic characteristics of virgin olive oils**

1. The organoleptic characteristics of virgin olive oils set out in Annex I to Delegated Regulation (EU) .../... [*reference to the delegated act*] shall be deemed consistent with the declared category if a tasting panel approved by a Member State confirms the category.

2. Where the tasting panel does not confirm the declared category as regards the organoleptic characteristics, at the request of the operator subject to the control, the competent authorities shall have two counter-assessments carried out by other approved tasting panels without delay. At least one of the tasting panels shall be a panel approved by the Member State in which the olive oil was produced. The characteristics concerned shall be deemed consistent with the characteristics declared if the two counter-assessments confirm the declared category. If this is not the case, regardless of the type of defects determined during the counter-assessments, the declared category shall be declared inconsistent with the characteristics, and the operator subject to the control shall bear the costs of the counter-assessments.
3. When the oil is produced outside the Union, the two counter-analyses shall be carried out by two tasting panels different from the one that initially established the non-conformity.
4. When carrying out counter-assessments, tasting panels shall assess the olive oil in two separate tasting sessions. The results from the two sessions for the olive oil subject to the counter-assessment must be statistically homogenous. If not, the sample must be re-analysed again twice. The reported values of the organoleptic characteristics of the olive oil subject to the counter-assessment shall be calculated as the average of the values obtained for those characteristics in the two statistically homogenous sessions.

#### *Article 12*

##### ***Oil content of oil cake and other residues***

1. The oil content of oil cake and other residues resulting from the extraction of olive oil (CN codes 2306 90 11 and 2306 90 19) shall be determined using the method set out in Annex IV.
2. The oil content referred to in paragraph 1 shall be expressed as a percentage of the weight of oil to the weight of dry matter.

#### *Article 13*

##### ***Penalties***

1. Where it is found that the marketing standards laid down in Delegated Regulation (EU) .../... [reference to the delegated act] are not respected, Member States shall apply effective, proportionate and dissuasive penalties to be determined in the light of the seriousness of the irregularity detected.
2. By 31 May of each year, Member States shall notify the Commission, in accordance with Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/1183, of the measures taken to that end and without delay of any amendments to those measures.

*Article 14*  
**Reporting**

By 31 May of each year, Member States shall submit to the Commission a report in accordance with Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/1183 on the implementation of this Regulation during the previous calendar year. The report shall contain at least the results of the conformity checks carried out on olive oil in accordance with the form set out in Annex V to this Regulation.

*Article 15*  
**Entry into force**

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels,

*For the Commission*  
*The President*  
*Ursula VON DER LEYEN*