

खुली डेटिंग प्रसंस्कृत खाद्य उत्पाद हेतु  
दिशानिर्देश स्थापित करने के लिए संवेदी  
मूल्यांकन प्रक्रिया

( पहला पुनरीक्षण )

**Sensory Evaluation Procedure to  
Establish Guidelines for Open Dating  
Processed Food Products**

( *First Revision* )

ICS 67.240

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भारतीय मानक ब्यूरो  
BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS  
मानक भवन, 9 बहादुर शाह ज़फर मार्ग, नई दिल्ली - 110002  
MANAK BHAVAN, 9 BAHADUR SHAH ZAFAR MARG  
NEW DELHI - 110002

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## FOREWORD

This Indian Standard (First Revision) was adopted by the Bureau of Indian Standards, after the draft finalized by the Test Methods for Food Products Sectional Committee had been approved by the Agriculture and Food Products Division Council.

Guidelines for open dating processed food products are important because (a) there will be changes in the quality of such a product over a period of time after the date of processing; (b) for some unknown interval of time, immediately after the processing date, the product quality will remain at the same level; (c) after this interval the product quality will continue to deteriorate at rates specific for different products; and (d) when the deterioration in quality is beyond a certain level, the product will be unacceptable to the consumer.

It is recognized that the precise dates by which deterioration sets in a specified product cannot be given exactly, since, the tests with panellists are influenced by experimental factors pertaining to sample presentation, psychophysical factors involved in the assessment of the product by the panellists and factors due to the insufficient training of panellists in conducting the test.

This standard was first published in 1983 to lay down a method to achieve uniformity in evaluating the changes in processed food products over a period of time. In this first revision, the standard has been brought out in the latest style and format of Indian Standard, and references to Indian Standards, wherever applicable, have been updated.

The composition of the Committee responsible for the formulation of this standard is given in Annex B.

For the purpose of deciding whether a particular requirement of this standard is complied with, the final value, observed or calculated, expressing the result of a test or analysis, shall be rounded off in accordance with IS 2 : 2022 'Rules for rounding off numerical values (*second revision*)'. The number of significant places retained in the rounded off value should be the same as that of the specified value in this standard.

# SENSORY EVALUATION PROCEDURE TO ESTABLISH GUIDELINES FOR OPEN DATING PROCESSED FOOD PRODUCTS

( *First Revision* )

## 1 SCOPE

This standard describes recommended methods for evaluating quality changes in processed food products over a period of time for establishing guidelines for open-dating them for consumer use.

## 2 REFERENCES

The standards listed in Annex A contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this standard. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision and parties to agreements based on this standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent edition of these standards.

## 3 TERMINOLOGY

Open-dating term is used to mean differently in different food industries. The most common ones are defined below.

**3.1 Sell-by-Date** — The sell-by-date is the last date of offer for sale to the consumer after which there remains a reasonable storage period in the home.

**3.2 Expiry or Use by Date** — The last day the product is recommended for use at full quality level.

**3.3 Date of Minimum Durability (Best Before)** — The date which signifies the end of the period under any stated storage condition during which the product will remain fully marketable and will retain any specific qualities for which tacit or express claims have been made. However, beyond that date the food may still be perfectly satisfactory.

## 4 OPTIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Optimum requirements for conducting sensory evaluation and training of panel and conducting consumer acceptance/preference studies are given in IS 6273 (Part 1).

## 5 PRINCIPLE

**5.1** The product quality just after processing is established through physico-chemical and sensory analysis. This provides the base line data.

**5.2** Decision regarding the storage life obtained during laboratory trials/previous factory trials are made use of for projecting the length of storage time and testing intervals.

**5.3** Depending on the number of withdrawals and the quantity required for testing at the end of each interval, sufficient samples of the products are drawn and stored.

**5.4** Initial tests conducted for assessing product quality using representative product samples are repeated at the end of each interval of storage until significant decline in product quality occurs at any particular stage after which the open date is assigned by the producer.

## 6 METHODS

**6.1** The product is processed and packaged in a manner it is marketed.

**6.2** Physico-chemical tests at each stage are carried out by following standard methods of analysis.

**6.3** Sensory analysis is done at each stage according to selected experimental designs depending on the test method used, number of product variables to be evaluated and the number of panellists available so as to obtain maximum information with the available resources [IS 6273 (Part 2), IS 6273 (Part 3/Sec 1) and 6273 (Part 3/Sec 2)].

**6.4** A representative sample from the product for establishing these guidelines is drawn using standard sampling methods (IS 1548). The quantity

to be drawn is decided by the number of intervals at which tests are to be conducted, as well as the quantity required for each test.

**6.5** All production information such as dates, lot numbers and codes are documented and separate laboratory codes are assigned to each sample.

**6.6** The samples drawn are subjected to simulated distribution and storage conditions so as to reflect the market conditions of handling and purchase. The market conditions are determined on the basis of a prior knowledge of the temperature, light, environment and display method encountered in the market. Accelerated storage conditions can be used if they are validated against non-accelerated conditions.

**6.7** For sensory analysis, train a panel (IS 8140) which has been earlier screened for capacity to discriminate differences in the repeat judgements for the main quality attributes of the product to be evaluated. Familiarize the panel with the test method and ranges of quality differences in the attributes they are to evaluate so that uniformity among panellists in understanding the quality attributes of the product is achieved.

**6.8** Determine the attributes of the product to be assessed based on consumer concepts as well as on the knowledge about the composition, anticipated changes, processing methods, and packaging and storage conditions.

**6.9** The quality descriptions are developed reflecting the selected impact attributes, that is, colour and appearance, aroma, taste and/or texture.

**6.10** The consistency in the performance of the panel is continuously mentioned during evaluations as recommended in IS 8140.

**6.11** Based on the appropriate design selected, present coded samples to the panellists under minimal bias generating conditions [IS 6273 (Part 3/Sec 1) and IS 6273 (Part 3/Sec 2)].

**6.12** The scale for each quality attribute is chosen to conform with the corresponding physico-chemical measurement.

**6.13** The data are collected and collated.

## **7 ANALYSIS OF DATA**

The appropriate analysis and interpretation of data are carried out as recommended in IS 6273 (Part 3/Sec 1) and IS 6273 (Part 3/Sec 2).

## **8 TEST REPORT**

Based on the results and interpretation the 'open dates', that is, the sell-by-date, 'the expiry or use by date' and the 'date of minimum durability' are fixed for each product.

## ANNEX A

(Clause 2)

## LIST OF REFERRED STANDARDS

<i>IS No.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>IS No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
IS 1548 : 1981	Manual on basic principles of lot sampling ( <i>second revision</i> )		Difference/preference tests ( <i>first revision</i> )
IS 6273 (Part 1) : 2023	Sensory evaluation of foods — Guide: Part 1 Optimum requirements ( <i>first revision</i> )	IS 6273 (Part 3/ Sec 2) : 2023	Sensory evaluation of foods — Guide: Part 3 Statistical analysis of data, Section 2 Ranking and scoring tests ( <i>first revision</i> )
IS 6273 (Part 2) : 1971	Guide for sensory evaluation of foods: Part 2 Methods and evaluation cards	IS 8140 : 2023	Selection of panel for sensory evaluation of foods and beverages — Guide ( <i>first revision</i> )
IS 6273 (Part 3/ Sec 1) : 1983	Guide for sensory evaluation of foods: Part 3 Statistical analysis of data, Section 1		

## ANNEX B

(Foreword)

### COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

Test Methods for Food Products Sectional Committee, FAD 28

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Representative(s)</i>
In Personal Capacity (138, CFTRI Layout, 3rd Cross, 4th Main, Bogadi II Stage, Mysuru - 570026)	DR ALOK K. SRIVASTAVA ( <b>Chairperson</b> )
All India Food Processors Association, New Delhi	SHRIMATI SHREYA PANDEY SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR JOSHI ( <i>Alternate</i> )
Anand Agricultural University, Anand	DR KESHAV B. KAMALIYA SHRI RASHMIN M. DHINGANI ( <i>Alternate</i> )
Association of Analytical Communities India, Mumbai	SHRI SHRINIVAS JOSHI DR KAUSHIK BANERJEE ( <i>Alternate</i> )
Association of Food Scientists and Technologists India, Mumbai	DR BASKARAN V. DR WADIKAR D. D. ( <i>Alternate</i> )
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Consumer Guidance Society of India, Mumbai	DR SITARAM DIXIT DR M. S. KAMATH ( <i>Alternate</i> )
CSIR - Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad	DR PRADOSH P. CHAKRABARTI DR M. S. L. KARUNA ( <i>Alternate</i> )
CSIR - Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysuru	DR PRASANNA VASU DR USHARANI DANDAMUDI ( <i>Alternate</i> )
Defence Food Research Laboratory, Mysuru	DR RAKESH KUMAR SHARMA
Directorate General of Supplies and Transport, New Delhi	COL JITEN ALE
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FICCI Research and Analysis Centre, New Delhi	DR MONIKA GUPTA SHRI AKHILESH KUMAR PANDEY ( <i>Alternate</i> )
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, New Delhi	SHRIMATI KANIKA AGGARWAL DR DINESH KUMAR ( <i>Alternate</i> )
GB Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar	DR SATISH K. SHARMA DR ANIL KUMAR ( <i>Alternate</i> )

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Representative(s)</i>
ICAR - Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology, Ludhiana	DR MRIDULA DEVI DR MANJU BALA ( <i>Alternate</i> )
ICMR - National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad	DR M. RADHIKA DR NAVEEN KUMAR R ( <i>Alternate</i> )
ICAR - National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal	DR VIVEK SHARMA DR KAUSHIK KHAMRUI ( <i>Alternate</i> )
ITC Limited, Kolkata	DR MANISH PARADKAR SHRI ANIL RAJPUT ( <i>Alternate</i> )
Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai	DR UDAY S. ANNAPURE DR SNEHASIS CHAKRABORTY ( <i>Alternate</i> )
National Dairy Development Board, Centre for Analysis and Learning in Livestock & Food, Anand	DR RAJESH RAJAPPAN NAIR SHRI RAJIV CHAWLA ( <i>Alternate</i> )
National Dope Testing Laboratory, New Delhi	DR ASHOK KUMAR MAURYA
National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management, Sonipat	DR KOMAL CHAUHAN DR NEETU KUMRA TANEJA ( <i>Alternate</i> )
National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management, Thanjavur	DR R. JAGAN MOHAN DR SANDEEP JANGHU ( <i>Alternate</i> )
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Shriram Institute for Industrial Research, New Delhi	DR S. K. NAYAK SHRIMATI RADHIKA SINGH ( <i>Alternate</i> )
Vimta Labs Limited, Hyderabad	DR JAGADEESH KODALI DR P. MUNI NAGENDRA PRASAD ( <i>Alternate</i> )
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*Member Secretary*

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SCIENTIST 'D'/JOINT DIRECTOR  
(FOOD AND AGRICULTURE), BIS

Panel for Review of Indian Standards Related to 'Sensory Analysis', FAD 28/Panel II

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Representative(s)</i>
National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management, Thanjavur	DR R. JAGAN MOHAN ( <b><i>Convenor</i></b> )
CSIR - Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysuru	DR ROOPA B. S.
Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai	DR UDAY S. ANNAPURE
ITC Limited, Bengaluru	SHRIMATI KAVYASHREE URS
National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal	DR KAUSHIK KHAMURI
Vimta Labs, Hyderabad	DR JAGADEESH KODALI





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## BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS

### Headquarters:

Manak Bhavan, 9 Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi 110002

Telephones: 2323 0131, 2323 3375, 2323 9402

Website: [www.bis.gov.in](http://www.bis.gov.in)

### Regional Offices:

	Telephones
Central : 601/A, Konnectus Tower -1, 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor, DMRC Building, Bhavbhuti Marg, New Delhi 110002	{ 2323 7617
Eastern : 8 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Plot No 7/7 & 7/8, CP Block, Sector V, Salt Lake, Kolkata, West Bengal 700091	{ 2367 0012 2320 9474
Northern : Plot No. 4-A, Sector 27-B, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh 160019	{ 265 9930
Southern : C.I.T. Campus, IV Cross Road, Taramani, Chennai 600113	{ 2254 1442 2254 1216
Western : Plot No. E-9, Road No.-8, MIDC, Andheri (East), Mumbai 400093	{ 2821 8093

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