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**Sensory analysis — General guidance for  
the selection, training and monitoring of  
assessors —**

**Part 2:  
Expert sensory assessors**

*Analyse sensorielle — Lignes directrices générales pour la sélection,  
l'entraînement et le contrôle des sujets —*

*Partie 2: Sujets experts sensoriels*



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## Foreword

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The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

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ISO 8586-2 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 34, *Food products*, Subcommittee SC 12, *Sensory analysis*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 8586-2:1994), which has been technically revised.

ISO 8586 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Sensory analysis — General guidance for the selection, training and monitoring of assessors*:

- *Part 1: Selected assessors*
- *Part 2: Expert sensory assessors*

## Introduction

Sensory assessment may be made by “assessors” (ISO 5492:2008, 1.5), “selected assessors” (ISO 5492:2008, 1.6) and “expert sensory assessors” (ISO 5492:2008, 1.8). ISO 8586-1 specifies requirements for the selection, training and monitoring of selected assessors. This part of ISO 8586 covers the principles linked to selection, training and monitoring performance of expert sensory assessors.

This part of ISO 8586 does not deal with product experts or product-specialized experts, because their specific know-how does not lie within sensory competence. However, a product expert or a product-specialized expert who is trained as an expert sensory assessor can be considered as an expert sensory assessor. This product-specialized expert can draw on additional knowledge gained in other fields, such as knowledge of the product to be assessed, and process or marketing experience, in order to interpret sensory data and make deductions.

An expert sensory assessor will have demonstrated particular acuity and reproducibility in panel work, and will have developed a good long-term sensory memory, allowing reliable comparative judgements, when necessary, in the absence of control samples.

Expert sensory assessors work as a panel which is managed by a panel leader. This panel leader is responsible for the general monitoring of the group of expert sensory assessors and for their training. The expert sensory assessors are not responsible for the choice of tests used, the presentation of the samples or for the interpretation of results. These matters are the responsibility of the panel leader who also decides how much information is given to the panel.