

## Oils Authenticity Surveillance

Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) collects samples of olive oil and other expensive oils to verify accurate representation. Sampling is focused on regulated parties with a history of non-compliance for misrepresentation as well as other risk factors (e.g. product origin).

The olive oil samples were tested for authenticity, which can include adulteration or substitution with cheaper oils (e.g. soya, canola). Misrepresentation of more expensive extra virgin or virgin olive oil by dilution with lower quality virgin olive oil or addition with refined olive oil was also tested. Samples were tested by assessing the sterol and fatty acid profile, and other parameters based on the International Olive Council (IOC) Standard and the Codex Standard for Olive Oil and Olive Pomace Oil (CXS 33-1981). Samples were assessed as unsatisfactory if any testing shows the presence of adulterants mixed in the oils. When a sample is found unsatisfactory, it is considered non-compliant with relevant legislation that prohibits misrepresentation.

The samples of expensive oils were tested to determine if the fatty acid and sterol profiles, and other parameters, met the standard for these oils in the Codex Standard for Named Vegetable Oils (CXS 210-1999). Blends of oils or oils with other ingredients such as flavourings were not sampled. When a sample is found unsatisfactory, it is considered non-compliant with relevant legislation that prohibits misrepresentation.

It is important to note that sampling is conducted based on risk factors for non-compliance, at various levels of trade and on various types of products. The results are not representative of overall compliance in the Canadian marketplace.

It is also important to note that while the datasets provide information about the origin of the samples, practices leading to non-compliance may have occurred at various points of the supply chain (for example during processing, packaging/re-packaging) and therefore an unsatisfactory result may not always be indicative of an issue in the place of origin.

Assessment results for samples are reported in the various datasets as noted below:

S = Satisfactory / Satisfaisant  
U-I = Unsatisfactory / Insatisfaisant

CFIA takes appropriate follow-up action on unsatisfactory samples. See additional information for details on compliance and enforcement activities.