

Decree No. 2-14-268 of Rabii II 8, 1436 (January 29, 2015) relating to the quality and safety of marketed olive oils and olive pomace oils

(OG n°6336 of 02/19/2015, page 922)

THE HEAD OF GOVERNMENT ,

Having regard to Law No. 28-07 relating to the safety of food products, promulgated by Dahir No. 1-10-08 of Safar 26, 1431 (February 11, 2010), in particular its articles 5 and 8;

Having regard to Decree No. 2-10-473 of Chaoual 7, 1432 (September 6, 2011) taken for the application of certain provisions of Law No. 28-07 relating to the safety of food products, in particular its articles 4, 5 , 48, 53 and 75;

Considering the decree n°2-12-389 of 11 joumada II 1434 (April 22, 2013) fixing the conditions and the methods of labeling of food products ;

After deliberation in the government council meeting, held on Rabii I 23, 1436 (January 15, 2015),

DECREES :

FIRST ARTICLE . - In accordance with the provisions of articles 5 and 8 of the aforementioned Law No. 28-07 relating to the safety of food products, this decree shall set the conditions that shall ensure the quality and safety of olive oil, and olive-pomace oil put on the market.

ARTICLE 2. - The denomination "olive oil" shall be reserved for oil originating solely from the fruit of the olive tree (*olea europea sativa* Hoffm . and Link), excluding oils obtained by solvent or by re-esterification processes and any mixture with other oils.

ARTICLE 3. – The olive oil defined in the categories below shall be marketed under the names indicated when it meets the corresponding specificities:

1. Virgin olive oil: Olive oil obtained from the fruit of the olive tree solely by mechanical processes or other physical processes under conditions, particularly thermal conditions, which do not lead to any alteration of the oil. This oil must not have undergone any treatment other than washing, decanting, centrifuging and filtering. This category includes:

a) Virgin olive oil intended for consumption as is, which includes :

- *Extra virgin olive oil* : virgin olive oil which has a free acidity expressed as oleic acid not exceeding 0.8 grams per 100 grams and meets the characteristics stipulated in the standards for this category;
- *Virgin olive oil* : virgin olive oil which has a free acidity expressed in oleic acid between 0.8 grams and 2 grams per 100 grams and meets the characteristics stipulated in the standards for this category;
- *Ordinary virgin olive oil* : virgin olive oil which has a free acidity expressed in oleic acid between 2 grams and 3.3 grams per 100 grams and meets the characteristics stipulated in the standards for this category;

b) Virgin olive oil unfit for consumption in its natural state is called "*lampante virgin olive oil*": virgin olive oil which has a free acidity expressed as oleic acid exceeding 3.3 grams per 100 grams and meets the characteristics stipulated in the standards for this category. It can be used as is for technical purposes or after refining for human consumption.

2. Refined olive oil : olive oil obtained from virgin olive oils by refining techniques that do not alter their initial glyceride structure. Its free acidity, expressed as oleic acid, does not exceed 0.3 grams per 100 grams and its other characteristics correspond to those stipulated in the standards for this category.

3. Olive oil : olive oil consisting of a blend of refined olive oil and virgin olive oil suitable for consumption as is. Its free acidity, expressed as oleic acid, does not exceed 1 gram per 100 grams and its other characteristics correspond to those stipulated in the standards for this category.

ARTICLE 4. - Olive pomace oil is the oil obtained by the treatment of olive pomace using solvents or other physical processes, excluding oil obtained by re-esterification and of any mixture with other oils.

The olive pomace oils defined in the categories below shall be marketed, under the names indicated when they meet the corresponding specificities:

1. **Crude olive-pomace oil:** olive-pomace oil which meet the characteristics stipulated for this category. It is intended for refining with a view to its use for human consumption or for technical purposes;
2. **Refined olive-pomace oil:** oil obtained from crude olive-pomace oil by refining techniques that do not alter the initial glyceride structure. Its free acidity, expressed as oleic acid, does not exceed 0.3 grams per 100 grams and its other characteristics correspond to those stipulated in the standards for this category;
3. **Olive-pomace oil:** oil obtained from a blend of refined olive-pomace oil and virgin olive oil fit for consumption as they are. Its free acidity, expressed as oleic acid, does not exceed 1 gram per 100 grams and its other characteristics correspond to those stipulated in the standards for this category.

ARTICLE 5. - The oils of the categories provided for in articles 3 and 4 above shall meet the physico-chemical and/or organoleptic characteristics as set by a joint order of the Minister of agriculture and the Minister of trade and industry.

The assessment and control of the organoleptic characteristics shall be carried out in accordance with the standards in force by a jury of tasters, chosen from experts recognized for their skills in the field, appointed by the Minister of agriculture.

ARTICLE 6. - The content of contaminants and residues of phytosanitary products of the oils of the categories provided for in articles 3 and 4 above shall comply with the provisions of the regulations in force in the matter or, failing that, the standards of the Codex Alimentarius.

ARTICLE 7. - No food additives shall be authorized in virgin olive oil and crude olive pomace oil.

For refined olive oil, olive oil, refined olive pomace oil and olive pomace oil, the addition of alpha-tocopherol shall be permitted to restore the natural tocopherol removed during the refining operation.

The maximum allowable dose shall be 200 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) of total alpha-tocopherol in the final product.

ARTICLE 8. - Establishments and companies for the production, treatment, transformation, packaging, distribution, transportation, storage or conservation of oils of the categories provided for in articles 3 and 4 above shall be subject to the provisions of articles 4 and 5 of Decree No. 2-10-473 referred to above.

The operators of its establishments or companies shall ensure the traceability of their products in accordance with the provisions of article 75 of the said decree.

ARTICLE 9. - Oils of the categories provided for in articles 3 and 4 above shall be packaged in suitable containers and clean.

These containers shall be made up of materials meeting the specifications and requirements set in accordance with the provisions of article 53 of the aforementioned Decree No. 2-10-473 and which make it possible to maintain the quality of the said oils.

For their sale to a final consumer, the aforementioned oils shall be presented in containers with nominal volumes, expressed in liters, as follows:

0.1	0.25	0.50	0.75	1	2	3	5	10	20	25
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These volumes can also be indicated in centiliter or milliliter as the case may be.

ARTICLE 10. - The labeling of containers and packaging of oils of the categories provided for in articles 3 and 4 above shall comply with the provisions of Decree No. 2-12-389 referred to above.

The affixing of a guarantee strip or any other equivalent guarantee system at the level of the opening of the container or the packaging of the oils of the categories provided for in articles 3 and 4 above shall be compulsory.

The person responsible for the first marketing of these oils shall enter the nominal volumes and affix the guarantee strip or any other equivalent guarantee system indicated above on the containers or packaging of the said oils.

The use of any indication, any sign, any name or trademark must not create confusion in the mind of the buyer on the nature, quality or origin of the oils of the categories provided for in articles 3 and 4 above, in all circumstances and in any form whatsoever.

ARTICLE 11. - The oils of the categories provided for in articles 3 and 4 above must, when they are mixed with any other oils, be marketed under a name which does not contain the term "olive" and their labeling must not include any mentions or graphic representations evoking the olive or the olive tree.

Any mixture of refined olive oil or refined olive pomace oil with other oils must include in its labeling, in addition to the mandatory information provided for by Decree n°2-12-389 mentioned above, the indication of the proportions of each oil constituting it.

ARTICLE 12. - Importers shall ensure that the oils of the categories provided for in articles 3 and 4 above that they import meet the provisions of this Decree and the requirements set out in article 48 of Decree No. 2-10- 473 referred to above.

ARTICLE 13. - Anyone who markets, holds for sale, offers for sale or sells the oils of the categories referred to in articles 3 and 4 above under a name not provided for by this Decree or under one of the names provided for in said articles. 3 and 4 when the said oils do not meet the corresponding specificities, shall be liable to the penalties provided for in articles 25 or 26, as the case may be, of the aforementioned Law No. 28-07.

ARTICLE 14. - This decree shall enter into force one (1) year after its date of publication in the Official Gazette.

As of the above-mentioned date, Decree No. 2-97-93 of Moharrem 13, 1418 (May 20, 1997) regulating the marketing of olive oils and olive pomace oils as amended and supplemented shall be repealed.

However, the provisions of article 1 of the aforementioned Decree No 2-97-93 relating to the peroxide index and the ultraviolet absorbance shall remain in force until the publication of the joint order provided for in article 5 of this Decree.

ARTICLE 15. - The Minister of Agriculture and Maritime Fisheries and the Minister of Industry, Trade, Investment and the Digital Economy are charged, each within the scope of his competence, with the implementation of this Decree which shall be published in the Official Gazette.

Done in Rabat, Rabii II 8, 1436 (January 29, 2015)

The head of government, ABDEL-ILAH BENKIRAN

FOR COUNTERSIGNATURE:

The Minister of Agriculture and Maritime Fisheries, AZIZ AKHANNOUCH

The Minister of Industry, Trade, Investment and the Digital Economy,

MOUALY HAFID EL ALAMY