

STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

**Australian Standard
for
SENSORY ANALYSIS OF FOODS**

PART 2. SPECIFIC METHODS

**AS 2542.2.2
TRIANGLE TEST**

1 SCOPE. This standard sets out a method for determining whether there are differences between two food samples by means of a triangular comparison.

2 FIELD OF APPLICATION. The triangle test is used for detecting a simple difference between two samples. This difference may involve one or several sensory properties.

NOTES:

1. The triangle test is not a valid test for providing information on the character or degree of difference.
2. The triangle test is not a valid test for determining preferences.
3. The triangle test is useful for the selection and training of assessors.

3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS. The following standards are referred to in this standard:

AS 2542 Sensory Analysis of Foods
Part 1—General Guide to Methodology*
Part 3—Glossary of Terms*

4 DEFINITIONS. For the purpose of this standard, the definitions given in AS 2542.3 apply.

5 PRINCIPLE. Three samples, two of which are identical, are presented simultaneously to an assessor. The assessor is required to identify the sample which is different. The responses from a panel of assessors are recorded and interpreted.

The triangle test is a *forced choice* test in which the assessor must choose the different sample. Responses indicating no difference between the three samples are not permitted.

6 APPARATUS. The apparatus shall be selected by the test supervisor in accordance with the principles laid down in AS 2542.1.

7 GENERAL TEST REQUIREMENTS.

7.1 Testing area. The conditions in the testing area shall be in accordance with principles laid down in AS 2542.1 such that conditions do not influence or impair the judgement of assessors.

7.2 Assessors.

7.2.1 Qualifications, selection, aptitude. The qualifications, aptitude and selection of assessors shall be in accordance with the principles laid down in AS 2542.1.

7.2.2 Number of assessors. The number of assessors shall be chosen by the test supervisor. The minimum number of assessors required for statistical purposes is shown in Table 1.

8 PROCEDURE.**8.1 Preparation of test samples.**

8.1.1 Quantity. The quantity of each product prepared for the test shall be representative of the bulk product and sufficient to provide an adequate number of samples for the test panel.

*In course of preparation.