

# COMPENDIUM OF INTERNATIONAL METHODS OF ANALYSIS FOR SPIRITUOUS BEVERAGES AND ALCOHOLS

## OIV-MA-BS-26 Colour intensity in spirit drinks of viti-vinicultural origin (Type IV)

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Method OIV-MA-BS-26 : R2009

Type IV method

### **Measurement of colour intensity in spirit drinks of viti-vinicultural origin**

OENO 6/94

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#### **1. Principle**

Colour intensity is determined by measuring the absorbance at 445 nm for an optical length of 1 cm thick (for traditional alcoholic beverages).

#### **2. Apparatus**

- A spectrophotometer enabling measurements at different wavelengths.
- Glass tanks with an optical path length of 1 cm and 0.2 cm.

#### **3. Procedure**

##### **3.1. Alcoholic beverage of a natural "golden yellow" colour. Measure the absorbance at the wavelength 445 nm of the alcoholic beverage placed in a glass tank with an optical path length of 1 cm by setting the zero of the absorbance scale compared with distilled water.**

*Remarks.*

- It is possible to measure the absorbance at any wavelength for alcoholic beverages naturally aged in wood and/or supplemented by caramel and/or supplemented by "woody" brandies because in all cases the absorption curves are continuous, without any maximum, or even a significant change in slope.

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- Taking into account the maximum perceived by human vision it would be preferable to perform the measurement at 530 nm.
- The hue or hue gamut between two alcoholic beverages can be expressed, in certain cases, by measuring absorbance at 620 nm.
- Theoretically the sample should not be filtered if it is a product intended for direct consumption, but care should be taken to ensure that the sample is free of particles that are not a priori contained in the alcoholic beverage, especially those resulting from corking.

### **3.2. Alcoholic beverage containing synthetic dyes. First, the absorption maximum should be measured, and then the wavelength corresponding to the selected maximum, if necessary using a tank with an optical path length of 0.2 cm.**

## **4. Expression of results**

Express the colour intensity by the absorbance measured under the conditions specified above, indicating the size of the colorimeter tank, and the chosen wavelength.

## **5. Bibliography**

1. Compendium of International Methods of Analysis of Spirituous Beverages of Vitivinicultural origin, 1990, BERTRAND A., F.V. O.J.V. n° 867.