

ATTACHMENT B

Standards and Requirements

As a condition of membership, **all members** who produce a California olive oil labeled as extra virgin must submit their oils annually and prior to the deadline of the Seal Certification Program and agree to abide by all requirements set forth in the Certification Mark and Intellectual Property License Agreement. Failure to submit oils by the deadline will result in non-compliance of membership. Private Label Entities must complete all required documentation by the deadline in order to remain in good standing. The requirements are provided each year prior to the harvest as noted in Exhibit A below.

EXHIBIT A: California Extra Virgin Olive Oil Standards for Certification

- 1) 100% of the oil is from olives grown in the State of California in the United States of America, extracted from the fruit solely by mechanical means under conditions that do not lead to the deterioration of the oil.
- 2) The oil has acidity (oleic free fatty acid) and meets all standard¹ requirements outlined in Table 1²
 - COOC standards may change prior to November 1st of each year, in advance of the certification program to comply with state and/or federal requirements. Members will receive a 30-day notice of any changes.
- 3) The oil must be organoleptically evaluated by the California Olive Oil Council Sensory Panel or approved panel³ and found to have a median fruitiness greater than zero and be free of defects.

Table 1: COOC Standards & Requirements for Certification		
All Producers		
Sensory	Median of Defects	0
	Median of Fruity	> 0
Free Acidity (FFA) (%m/m)		≤ 0.5
Peroxide Value (PV) (meq O ₂ /kg oil)		≤ 15
UV Absorbency (UV)	K232	≤ 2.4
	K270	≤ 0.22
	Delta K	≤ 0.01
Producers > 5,000 gallons		
Moisture and Volatiles (MOI) (%m/m)		≤ 0.2
Insoluble Impurities (INI) (%m/m)		≤ 0.1
DAGs (%)		≥ 35
PPP (%)		≤ 17

Should state or federal requirements change after November 1st, these requirements may supersede the COOC

EXHIBIT B: Label & Promotional Material Disclosure Requirements

The following apply both to labels as well as to promotional materials of all kinds.

Labeling practice for **all** products sold and marketed by COOC members should uphold the mission of the California Olive Oil Council to provide the utmost transparency when referring to extra virgin olive oil. Any language that may be perceived as misleading to consumers with respect to olive oil may be considered a violation of the COOC Code of Ethics⁴.

- (1) All oils certified by the California Olive Oil Council must be from 100% grown and produced California olives

¹ [CDFA Grade and Labeling Standards for Olive Oil, Refined-Olive Oil and Olive Pomace](#), Section 6

² UV Absorbency is an indicator of oxidation, especially in oils that have been heated in the refining process. It measures the quantity of certain oxidized compounds that resonate on wavelengths of 232 and 270 nanometers (nm) in the ultraviolet spectrophotometer. Delta K may detect oil treatments with color removing substances and the presence of refined or Pomace Oil by measuring absorbency differences.

³ Sensory Panel must be IOC & AOCS recognized

⁴ See COOC Membership Agreement

- (2) If use of “California” in any phrase such as company name, brand name, or other word or group of words, or images that identify California on the label of any extra virgin olive oil sold by the member, then 100% of the fruit to produce the oil must come solely from the state of California.
- (3) Provenance: (i) If reference is made to a specific region within California, then at least 85% of the oil must be from olives grown in that region. (ii) If reference is made to a specific estate within California, then at least 95% of the oil must be from olives grown on that estate. (iii) If any phrase such as a company name, brand name, or other word or group of words except for address or legal information, is in conflict with (1), (2i) and/or (2ii), then the actual location or locations in which the olives were grown must be specified on the Primary Display Panel, in type not less than 1/3 the size of the phrase, and in geographic specificity no less precise than the phrase; if the oil is from a less-specific region than the phrase implies, then there must be a disclaimer indicating that the oil is not from the implied location, in type not less than 1/3 the size of the phrase.
- (4) Varietal Names: If an oil is named under the same nomenclature of the olive varietal used, then the oil must comprise of at least 85% of the fruit (by weight) denoted.
- (5) Time of Harvest: 100% of the olives used to make the oil must have been harvested during the period referred. Because the bulk of the harvest typically takes place October to December, the COOC seal certification year refers to the harvest year; for example, the 2020-2021 harvest season is deemed the 2020 certification year.
 - (i) It is not permitted for product consisting of Approved Olive Oils from numerous harvests to bear the COOC Seal of Certification.
- (6) Awards: Any reference to an award, prize, certification, or citation must apply to 100% of the oil and clearly state so. Awards must refer to current awards only, not previous years.
- (7) Cultivation Methods: No reference to cultivation standards or practices (such as organic or sustainable) may be made that is not applicable to at least 85% of the fruit (by weight) used to produce the oil and the reference must comply with state and federal definitions and regulations.
- (8) Production Methods: No reference to extraction methods may be made that is not applicable to at least 85% of the fruit (by weight) used to produce the oil.
- (9) Descriptors: (i) Ambiguous or misleading descriptor words or phrases regarding region, state or provenance are prohibited. (ii) Use of promotional vocabulary that makes reference to production from a specific region, state or provenance that does not represent 100% of the production process including but not limited to, growing, milling, and bottling, coming from that specific region, state or provenance is prohibited.
- (10) Should the member be marketing and/or selling olive oil(s) that do not abide by extra virgin standards, the COOC may not be referenced, nor shall the product be marketed or sold as being extra virgin⁵.
- (11) Members marketing and selling olive oils must submit all labels for approval by the COOC prior to distribution into the market. (i) Flavored oil labels and mixed oil blends⁶, though excluded from the Seal Certification Program, will be reviewed for compliance and should only make reference to the phrase extra virgin in the Ingredient List⁷. Labeling practices should coincide with the FDA Food Labeling Guide. (ii) if the 2020 Harvest labels are not finalized, a current draft may be reviewed with intended changes noted.

EXHIBIT C: Harvest & ‘Best If Used By’ Dates

- 1) The COOC requires the use of harvest date either in the form of the COOC Harvest Seal (of which harvest year is embedded) or if using the Generic Seal, harvest month and year must be clearly indicated

⁵ Attachment D: Recommendations and Requirements for Other Oils and Products Containing Extra Virgin Olive Oil: <https://www.cooc.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020-Attachment-D-Requirements-for-Other-Oils.pdf>

⁶ Attachment C: Lot Size Recommendations and Requirements: <https://www.cooc.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020-Attachment-C-Lot-Size.pdf>

⁷ FDA Food Labeling Guide, Pg. 17: <https://www.fda.gov/media/81606/download>

on packaging⁸.

- 2) ‘Best If Used By’ dates are not a requirement of the COOC; however, if such is indicated, the date denoted must not exceed 24 months post-harvest.
 - a) See the COOC’s “[Determining Best if Used By Date](#)”⁹ document

EXHIBIT D: Trademark and Artwork

- 1) The California Olive Oil Council holds registered ownership of The California Olive Oil Council Certification Marks. Upon completion of the Certification Mark and Intellectual Property License Agreement, permission to use the COOC Certification Mark¹⁰ on packaging and for use of marketing, in accordance with, and subject to, the provisions of the Agreement.
- 2) Use of COOC Marks should not portray adaptations in color (See Table 2), proportion, nor be edited to any dimensions smaller than 7/8” in diameter.
 - Variance in size smaller than 7/8” in diameter is subject for review and approval by the COOC upon submission of a retail ready label
- 3) The Marks should not be altered in any way other than noted above, unless written permissions have been provided by the COOC.

Table 2: COOC Marks Color Scheme				
	Green & Yellow Seal	Green & White Seal	Black & White Seal	Grey Scale Seal
PMS	Green: 343 Yellow: 127	Green: 343 Black: 0	Black: 100% White: (Black) 0%	Black: 100% Grey: (Black)15%

EXHIBIT E: Filtering, Racking and Storage

- 1) In order to preserve the highest quality of your olive oil(s), The COOC encourages that producers remove sediment and water from their oil by means of processes such as filtration and/or racking. Excess sediment is amongst the most common contributing factors for oils not meeting extra virgin grade due to anaerobic fermentation and oxidation, which may also result in a short shelf life. Removal of water and sediment are imperative to the longevity of an olive oil and prevent compromising the oil’s shelf life¹¹.
- 2) Storage of fruit (during harvest and prior to milling) and oil should be in cool, dark spaces, away from light, air and heat, otherwise one risks the increased chance of oxidation. Storage of unracked and/or unfiltered oil over extended periods can also contribute to degradation that shortens an oil’s shelf life. Storage vessels should be faultlessly clean prior to use and meet food grade requirements. The COOC encourages that members refrain from the use of plastic drums or bags, for these practices are vulnerable to leeching, seepage and breakage.
 - a. UC Davis Olive Center provides “Best Practices for Oil Processors¹²”

⁸ Attachment A: COOC Intellectual Property Subject to License: <https://www.cooc.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/2020-Attachment-A-Intellectual-Property-to-Use.pdf>

⁹ Determining Best if Used By Date: <https://www.cooc.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Determining-Best-By-Date.pdf>

¹⁰ United States Patent & Trademark Office - Registration Number: 4674159

¹¹ Under optimal storage conditions outlined in Exhibit E-2

¹² UC Davis Olive Center: Best Practices when Pressing: <https://olivecenter.ucdavis.edu/learn/oil-processors>

