

Petition Submitted to FDA Seeks Adoption of Federal Olive Oil Standards

The Olive Oil Commission of California (OOC) is pleased to report that a citizen petition was submitted to the US Food and Drug Administration yesterday in an effort to encourage the government to adopt nation-wide, science-based, enforceable standards for olive oil.

The proposed standards mirror the current mandatory California standard for Extra Virgin olive oil now enforced through the California Department of Agriculture and the OOC's sampling and testing program. This petition would not be possible without the precedent set by the OOC and CDFA.

In a [press statement](#) issued today by the OOC, Brady Whitlow, OOC Chairman said the following:

"The OOC has been successful in dramatically improving the quality of olive oil produced in California and, more importantly, our standards are working to ensuring consumers can trust what is printed on the label when they purchase California olive oil. It's imperative to increasing sales of olive oil that our product is backed by credible, mandatory standards."

The OOC standards are important because they include the freshness tests for DAG's and PPP's as well as mandatory best by dates supported by technical evidence

The citizen petition was submitted in Washington DC yesterday as part of a joint effort between the American Olive Oil Producers Association, which represents producers in California, Texas, Georgia, and Florida, in partnership with Deoleo, a multi-national food company and the largest seller of olive oil in the world.

The OOC plays a critical role by providing important data to support the petition. Research conducted by the UC Davis Olive Center and funded through OOC assessments are key components in evidence provided to FDA that will help them determine the new federal standards.

Before these new standards can be put into place, the FDA will create a final rule and collect public comments. If approved, this will mark the first time the federal government has regulated the olive oil category. Citizen petitions for Standards of Identity have resulted previously in the adoption of regulations for a variety of other food products.

The OOC is hopeful the FDA will adopt standards as we have done in California to ensure that consumers can trust the olive oil they buy in stores and restaurants throughout the U.S. More information about the petition can be found in the [press release](#) issued yesterday by AOOPA and Deoleo. The OOC will keep you informed of this important activity as it progresses.