

Announcement

Peer Review Policy on the International Journal of Mass Spectrometry

The practice of peer review is to ensure that good science is published. It is an objective process at the heart of good scholarly publishing and is carried out on all reputable scientific journals. Our reviewers therefore play a vital role in maintaining the high standards of the International Journal of Mass Spectrometry and all manuscripts are peer reviewed following the procedure outlined below.

Special issues and/or conference proceedings may have different peer review procedures involving, for example, Guest Editors, conference organisers or scientific committees. Authors contributing to these projects may receive full details of the peer review process on request from the editorial office.

Initial manuscript evaluation

The Editor first evaluates all manuscripts. It is rare, but it is entirely feasible for an exceptional manuscript to be accepted at this stage. Those rejected at this stage are insufficiently original, have serious scientific flaws, have poor grammar or English language, or are outside the aims and scope of the journal. Authors of manuscripts rejected at this stage will normally be informed within days of receipt. Those that meet the minimum criteria are normally passed on to at least 2 experts for review.

Type of Peer Review

This journal employs single blind review, where the reviewer remains anonymous throughout the process.

How Reviewers are selected

Reviewers are matched to the paper according to their expertise. We welcome suggestions for reviewers from the author though these recommendations may or may not be used.

Reviewer reports

Reviewers are asked to evaluate whether the manuscript :

- Is original
- Is methodologically sound
- Follows appropriate ethical guidelines
- Has results which are clearly presented and support the conclusions
- Correctly references previous relevant work

Reviewers are not expected to correct or copyedit manuscripts. Language correction is not part of the peer review process.

How long does the review process take?

Typically the manuscript will be reviewed within 1 month. Should the reviewers' reports contradict one another or a report is unnecessarily delayed a further expert opinion may be sought. Revised manuscripts may be returned to the initial reviewers within weeks, depending on the extent of the corrections that are required. Reviewers may request more than one revision of a manuscript.

Final report

A final decision to accept or reject the manuscript will be sent to the author along with any recommendations made by the reviewers, and may include verbatim comments by the reviewers.

Editor's Decision is final

Reviewers advise the editor, who is responsible for the final decision to accept or reject the article.