
**Peppercorns (*Piper nigrum* L.) in brine —
Specification and test methods**

*Poivre vert (Piper nigrum L.) en saumure — Spécifications et méthodes
d'essai*

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Foreword

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International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 3.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this International Standard may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

International Standard ISO 11162 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 34, *Food products*, Subcommittee SC 7, *Spices and condiments*.

Annexes A, B, C and D form a normative part of this International Standard.

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Peppercorns (*Piper nigrum* L.) in brine — Specification and test methods

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies the requirements for peppercorns (*Piper nigrum* L.) in brine.

2 Normative references

The following normative documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this International Standard. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies. Members of ISO and IEC maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 927, *Spices and condiments — Determination of extraneous matter content*.

ISO 939, *Spices and condiments — Determination of moisture content — Entrainment method*.

ISO 948, *Spices and condiments — Sampling*.

ISO 3310-1, *Test sieves — Technical requirements and testing — Part 1: Test sieves of metal wire cloth*.

ISO 5564, *Black pepper and white pepper, whole or ground — Determination of piperine content — Spectrophotometric method*.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this International Standard, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1

peppercorns in brine

product prepared under controlled conditions from fresh green pepper berries of the plant *Piper nigrum* L. which have reached a proper degree of maturity and which satisfy the requirements of this International Standard

3.2

total acidity of brine

acidity produced by all the acids contained in the brine, expressed as a mass fraction of citric acid, in percent

NOTE Citric acid is a triacid with a molar mass equal to 192,13 g.

3.3

piperine content

quantity of pungent components (piperine and similar compounds) contained in the product, determined by the method specified in this International Standard

NOTE It is expressed as a mass fraction in percent.

3.4

chloride content

mass fraction of chloride ions, expressed as sodium chloride, present in the brine of peppercorns when determined in accordance with the method specified in this International Standard

4 Requirements

4.1 Colour and size

The berries shall possess characteristic colour of green pepper of proper maturity varying from pale green to green. The berries are between 3 mm to 6 mm in diameter and shall be more or less of a uniform size within a same batch.

4.2 Odour and flavour

The berries shall have the characteristic odour and flavour of fresh green pepper berries and shall be completely devoid of any objectionable taste or odour.

4.3 Extraneous matter

For the purposes of this International Standard, all materials other than green pepper berries, irrespective of whether they are of vegetable (e.g. stem or leaves) or mineral (e.g. sand) origin, shall be considered as extraneous matter.

NOTE Light berries, pinhead or broken berries are not considered as extraneous matter.

The total percentage of extraneous matter, when determined by the method specified in ISO 927, shall not exceed 1 % (mass fraction).

4.4 Defective berries

The maximum limit for defective berries, including discoloured, dark coloured, light and broken berries and pinheads, shall be 4 % (mass fraction) when determined on a sample of 500 g (drained mass) by physical separation.

4.5 Freedom from moulds, insects, preservatives, colouring matter and flavouring agents

Peppercorns in brine shall be free from moulds and insects. They shall also be free from preservatives, colouring matter and flavouring agents unless permitted under the national legislation of the importing country.

4.6 Piperine content of peppercorns in brine

The piperine content shall be determined following the method given in annex A.

4.7 Characteristics of the brine and processing conditions

4.7.1 The brine shall comply with the requirements given in Table 1.

4.7.2 The peppercorns in brine shall be processed under hygienic conditions.

4.8 Drained mass

The drained mass of the content shall be not less than 50 % (mass fraction) of the net mass when tested in accordance with the method specified in annex D.