
INTERNATIONAL STANDARD



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Revisées

**Tea – Sampling –
Part II : Sampling from small containers**

Thé – Échantillonnage – Partie II : Échantillonnage des petits emballages

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FOREWORD

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards institutes (ISO Member Bodies). The work of developing International Standards is carried out through ISO Technical Committees. Every Member Body interested in a subject for which a Technical Committee has been set up has the right to be represented on that Committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work.

Draft International Standards adopted by the Technical Committees are circulated to the Member Bodies for approval before their acceptance as International Standards by the ISO Council.

International Standard ISO 1839/1 was drawn up by Technical Committee ISO/TC 34, *Agricultural food products*, and circulated to the Member Bodies in March 1973.

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It has been approved by the Member Bodies of the following countries :

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Austria | Germany | Poland |
| Belgium | Hungary | Portugal |
| Brazil | India | Romania |
| Bulgaria | Iran | South Africa, Rep. of |
| Canada | Israel | Turkey |
| Czechoslovakia | Mexico | United Kingdom |
| Egypt, Arab Rep. of | Netherlands | U.S.A. |
| France | New Zealand | Yugoslavia |

The Member Body of the following country expressed disapproval of the document on technical grounds :

Chile

Tea — Sampling — Part II : Sampling from small containers

1 SCOPE AND FIELD OF APPLICATION

This International Standard specifies methods for the sampling of tea.

Part II applies to sampling from small containers, i.e. those not containing more than 1 kg of loose tea¹⁾.

2 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this International Standard the following definitions apply²⁾ :

2.1 consignment : The quantity of goods despatched or received at one time and covered by a particular contract or shipping document.

2.2 lot : A stated part of the consignment, intended to have the same characteristics.

NOTE — For tea, material of the same brand and type manufactured at the same time constitutes a lot.

2.3 primary sample : A small quantity of tea taken from a single container in the lot or, where appropriate, the whole contents of one container (see 5.3.1).

NOTE — A series of primary samples is taken from different parts of the lot.

2.4 bulk sample : The quantity of tea obtained by bringing together the primary samples taken from different positions in the lot and representative of the quality of the lot (see 5.4).

2.5 laboratory sample : A prescribed quantity of tea taken from the bulk sample, representative of the quality of the

lot and intended for analysis or other examination (see 5.5).

3 APPARATUS

Spoons, scoops or other instruments suitable for taking primary samples from the interior of small containers.

4 GENERAL PROCEDURE

4.1 Sampling shall be carried out by persons appointed by buyers and sellers and, if desired, in the presence of the buyer (or his representatives) and the seller (or his representatives).

4.2 Sampling shall be carried out in a covered place, in such a manner that the samples of tea, the sampling instruments and the sample containers are protected from adventitious contamination and other factors likely to affect the samples, for example moisture, dust, radiation, etc.

Special care is necessary to ensure that the sampling instruments are clean and dry, and do not impart any foreign odour to the sample.

4.3 Handling of the sample (for example combining of primary samples into the bulk sample, packaging of sample) shall be carried out with care in order to avoid changing the original characteristics of the tea.

4.4 If examination of primary samples shows that the lot is not uniform within the definition "lot" (2.2), the sampling shall be discontinued and reference made back to the person who ordered the sampling to be carried out.

1) ISO 1839/I applies to containers containing more than 20 kg of loose tea. ISO 1839/III will apply to containers containing 1 to 20 kg of loose tea.

2) Terms and definitions relating to sampling are at present under consideration by ISO/TC 34/WG 1 — *Sampling*.

5 SAMPLING FROM SMALL CONTAINERS

5.1 Numbers of containers to be sampled

The minimum number (see 5.3.3) of containers to be sampled from a lot shall be as shown in the table below, provided that the mass specified for each laboratory sample is obtained :

| Number of containers in lot | Number of containers to be sampled |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| up to 25 | 3 |
| 26 to 100 | 5 |
| 101 to 300 | 7 |
| 301 to 500 | 10 |
| 501 to 1 000 | 15 |
| 1 001 to 3 000 | 20 |
| 3 001 and over | 25 |

5.2 Procedure for random sampling

The containers to be sampled shall be taken at random, and for this purpose use should be made of random number tables. If such tables are not available, the following procedure may be used :

Let N be the number of containers in the lot and n the number of containers to be taken. Starting from any container, count the containers in order as 1, 2, etc. up to r , where $r = N/n$. (If N/n is not a whole number, take r as the integral part of it.) Select the r^{th} container as a sample. Continue counting and selecting every r^{th} container, until the requisite number of containers has been drawn.

If the containers are packed in outer cases, cartons or crates containing a convenient number of units, approximately 20 % (but not fewer than two) of the outer packages shall be drawn at random. From these, small containers shall be drawn in equal numbers, at random, so as to make up the requisite number of containers to be sampled, as specified in 5.1.

5.3 Selection of primary samples

5.3.1 If the amount of tea in each container taken from the lot as described in 5.2 does not exceed 50 g, each of the containers shall constitute a primary sample.

5.3.2 If the amount of tea in each container exceeds 50 g, it shall be carefully mixed and a primary sample of appropriate size shall then be taken by means of the apparatus mentioned in clause 3.

5.3.3 If the amount of tea in each container is less than 100 g, select a sufficient number of containers to obtain the minimum mass for each laboratory sample as specified in 5.5.

5.4 Bulk sample

5.4.1 The bulk sample shall be formed by bringing together the primary samples.

5.4.2 If the primary samples consist of intact pre-packed units, the whole shall form the bulk sample and be forwarded for examination unless a different procedure is agreed.

5.5 Laboratory samples

5.5.1 If the bulk sample is formed by combining primary samples of loose material, it shall be well mixed and then divided down to the required number of laboratory samples.

NOTE — Replicate samples will often be required, for example as duplicate or reference samples, and in general the number and size of the samples to be taken for examination and arbitration shall conform to the recognized trade practices, unless otherwise agreed.

5.5.2 If the bulk sample consists of unopened single containers, the latter shall be used as laboratory samples unless the contracting parties agree on an alternative procedure.

5.5.3 The size of each laboratory sample shall be not less than 100 g for purposes of chemical examination and 50 g for sensory tests, unless otherwise agreed.

6 PACKAGING AND LABELLING OF SAMPLES

6.1 Packaging of samples

Samples of loose tea shall be packed in clean, dry, odour-free containers which are air-tight, moisture-tight and fitted with close-fitting lids. The containers shall be completely filled, and the closures should be sealed to prevent loosening or tampering. The samples shall be protected from light during sampling and storage.

NOTE — Owing to the hygroscopic character of tea it is essential to transfer the samples to their containers as promptly as possible.

6.2 Labelling of samples

Each sample container shall carry a label marked with full details of the place and date of sampling, the name of the estate or of the blend, the invoice and lot number, the name of the sampler and any other important particulars relating to the consignment, for example the specie (grade).

7 DESPATCH OF SAMPLES

Samples shall be despatched as soon as possible, and only in exceptional circumstances more than 48 h after sampling has been completed, non-business days excluded.

8 SAMPLING REPORT

If a sampling report is prepared, it is recommended that reference should be made to any unusual appearance of the container, and all the circumstances that may have influenced the sampling. It shall include the following details :

- a) place of sampling;
- b) date of sampling;
- c) time of sampling, and time of subsequent sealing of sample containers;
- d) names and descriptions of sampling personnel and witnesses;
- e) identification of the method, and any modifications to the technique described;
- f) nature and number of units constituting the lot, and reference to relevant documents and details of marking;
- g) number of samples and their identification (markings, batch number, etc.);
- h) destination of samples;
- i) condition of packages and surroundings;
- j) atmospheric conditions during sampling, including relative humidity.

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