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**Pepper (*Piper nigrum* L.), whole or  
ground — Specification —**

**Part 1:  
Black pepper**

*Poivre (Piper nigrum L.), entier ou en poudre — Spécifications —  
Partie 1: Poivre noir*



## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established 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. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

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.

International Standard ISO 959-1 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 34, *Agricultural food products*, Subcommittee SC 7, *Spices and condiments*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 959-1:1989), which has been technically revised.

ISO 959 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Pepper (Piper nigrum L.), whole or ground — Specification*:

- *Part 1: Black pepper*
- *Part 2: White pepper*

Annexes A and B form an integral part of this part of ISO 959. Annexes C and D are for information only.

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# Pepper (*Piper nigrum* L.), whole or ground — Specification —

## Part 1:

## Black pepper

### 1 Scope

This part of ISO 959 specifies requirements for black pepper (*Piper nigrum* L.) (see ISO 676), whole or ground at the following commercial stages:

- a) pepper sold by the producing country without cleaning or after a partial cleaning, without preparation or grading, called “non-processed (NP) or semi-processed (SP) pepper” in this part of ISO 959;
- b) pepper sold by the producing country after cleaning, preparation and/or grading, called “processed (P) pepper”, which can, in certain cases, be re-sold directly to the consumers.

When the term “black pepper” is used alone, it means that the specification applies to both types described, without distinction.

This part of ISO 959 is not applicable to black pepper categories called “light”.

NOTE Specifications for white pepper are given in ISO 959-2.

Recommendations relating to storage and transport conditions are given in annex C. Information regarding the microscopic structure of the pepper berry is given in annex D.

### 2 Normative references

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this part of ISO 959. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this part of ISO 959 are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the standards indicated below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 676:1995, *Spices and condiments — Nomenclature*.

ISO 927:1982, *Spices and condiments — Determination of extraneous matter content*.

ISO 928:1997, *Spices and condiments — Determination of total ash*.

ISO 930:1997, *Spices and condiments — Determination of acid-insoluble ash*.

ISO 939:1980, *Spices and condiments — Determination of moisture content — Entrainment method*.

ISO 948:1980, *Spices and condiments — Sampling*.

ISO 1108:1992, *Spices and condiments — Determination of non-volatile ether extract.*

ISO 1208:1982, *Spices and condiments — Determination of filth.*

ISO 5498:1981, *Agricultural food products — Determination of crude fibre content — General method.*

ISO 5564:1982, *Black pepper and white pepper, whole or ground — Determination of piperine content — Spectrophotometric method.*

ISO 6571:1984, *Spices, condiments and herbs — Determination of volatile oil content.*

### 3 Definitions

For the purposes of this part of ISO 959, the following definitions apply.

#### 3.1

##### **black pepper**

dried berry of *Piper nigrum* L., having an unbroken pericarp

#### 3.2

##### **black pepper, non-processed (NP)**

pepper that has not undergone any clearing, preparation or grading by the producing country before being exported, and that conforms to the requirements of this part of ISO 959

#### 3.3

##### **black pepper, semi-processed (SP)**

pepper that has undergone partial cleaning but without preparation or grading by the producing country before being exported, and that conforms to the requirements of this part of ISO 959

#### 3.4

##### **black pepper processed**

pepper that has been processed (cleaning, preparation, grading, etc.) by the producing country before being exported, and that conforms to the requirements of this part of ISO 959

#### 3.5

##### **black pepper, ground**

pepper obtained by grinding black pepper berries without adding any foreign matter to the pepper, and that conforms to the requirements of this part of ISO 959

#### 3.6

##### **grey pepper**

commercial name sometimes given to ground black pepper

#### 3.7

##### **light berry**

berry that has reached an apparently normal stage of development but the kernel does not exist

#### 3.8

##### **pinhead**

berry of very small size that has not developed