

**SRI LANKA STANDARD 310 : 2007**  
**UDC 633.82/.84 : 620.113**

**METHOD FOR THE**  
**SAMPLING OF SPICES AND CONDIMENTS**  
**(FIRST REVISION)**

**SRI LANKA STANDARDS INSTITUTION**

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SAMPLING OF SPICES AND CONDIMENTS  
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**SLS 310 : 2007**

**Gr. 4**

**SRI LANKA STANDARDS INSTITUTION  
17, Victoria Place  
Elvitigala Mawatha  
Colombo 8  
SRI LANKA.**

Sri Lanka Standards are subject to periodical revision in order to accommodate the progress made by industry. Suggestions for improvement will be recorded and brought to the notice of the Committees to which the revisions are entrusted.

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**SRI LANKA STANDARD**  
**METHOD FOR THE SAMPLING OF SPICES AND CONDIMENTS**  
**(FIRST REVISION)**

## **FOREWORD**

This Sri Lanka Standard was approved by the Sectoral Committee on Agriculture and Food Products and was authorized for adoption and publication as a Sri Lanka Standard by the Council of the Sri Lanka Standards Institution on 2007-04-26.

This standard was first published in 1974, which has been derived from the International Organization for Standardization Recommendation R 948 – 1969. This standard is being revised to bring it in line with the latest ISO standard for Spices and Condiments – Sampling. In addition, due consideration has been given to the current procedures practicing in the country.

In the preparation of this standard, the valuable assistance derived from the following publication is gratefully acknowledged :  
ISO 948 : 1980 Spices and Condiments – Sampling.

## **1 SCOPE**

This standard specifies a method for the sampling of spices and condiments.

## **2 REFERENCES**

SLS 428 Random sampling methods

## **3 DEFINITIONS**

For the purpose of this standard, the following definitions shall apply :

**3.1 consignment** : The quantity of spice or condiment dispatched or received at one time and covered by a particular contract or shipping document. It may be composed of one or more lots.

**3.2 lot** : A stated quantity of the consignment, presumed to be of uniform characteristics, taken from the consignment and allowing the quality to be assessed.

**3.3 increment** : A small quantity of spice or condiment taken from a single position in the lot.

A series of increments shall be taken from different positions in the lot.

**3.4 bulk sample :** The quantity of spice or condiment obtained by combining and mixing the increments taken from a specific lot.

**3.5 laboratory sample :** The quantity of spice or condiment removed from the bulk sample and intended for analysis or other examination.

## **4 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS OF SAMPLING**

**4.1** Sampling shall be carried out by a person appointed by agreement between buyer and seller and, if desired by either of them, in the presence of the buyer (or his representative) and of the seller (or his representative).

**4.2** In taking, preparing, storing and handling the samples, care shall be taken that the properties of the product are not affected. The following precautions and directions shall be observed.

**4.2.1** Samples shall be taken in a protected place not exposed to damp air, dust or soot.

**4.2.2** The sampling apparatus shall be clean and dry.

**4.2.3** Precautions shall be taken to protect the samples, the product being sampled and the sample containers from adventitious contamination.

## **5 APPARATUS**

The apparatus required falls under the following headings :

**5.1** *Sampling from bags* - Sack-type spears or triers

**5.2** *Mixing and dividing* - Shovels and dividing apparatus

## **6 CONSTITUTION OF LOTS**

**6.1** All the containers in a single consignment of spice or condiment pertaining to the same variety, year of production and grade shall constitute a lot.

**6.2** If a consignment is declared or is known to include different varieties, different classes or different years of production, or if it appears that the lot is heterogeneous, the containers holding products of similar characteristics shall be grouped together, and each group thus obtained shall constitute a separate lot.

## 7 METHOD OF TAKING INCREMENTS

**7.1** The number (n) of the containers to be taken from a lot depends on the size of the lot and shall be in accordance with Table 1.

**TABLE 1 - Number of containers to be taken for sampling**

Lot size (N)	Number of containers to be taken (n)
1 to 5 containers	All containers
6 to 49 containers	5 containers
50 to 100 containers	10 % of the containers
Over 100 containers	The square root of containers, rounded to the nearest whole number

**7.2** The containers shall be selected at random. In order to ensure randomness of selection, random number tables as given in **SLS 428** shall be used.

**7.3** With an appropriate sampling instrument, increments shall be drawn from different parts of each container selected.

## 8 BULK SAMPLE

**8.1** All the increments drawn as described above shall be mixed thoroughly to form the bulk sample.

**8.2** The size of the bulk sample shall be more than three times the quantity of sample required to carry out all the tests required by the individual specification for the spice or condiment.

## 9 LABORATORY SAMPLES

**9.1** The bulk sample shall be divided into three or more equal parts, according to the number of laboratory samples required.

**9.2** Each part thus obtained constitutes a laboratory sample ; one of these samples is intended for the buyer and another for the seller.

**9.3** The third sample, bearing the seals of the buyer and of the seller (or of their representatives) if they were present at the time of sampling or of the person who sampled the lot, shall constitute the reference sample to be used in the case of dispute between buyer and seller ; it shall be kept at a place acceptable to both parties.

## **10 PACKAGING AND LABELLING OF SAMPLES**

### **10.1 Packaging of samples**

**10.1.1** The laboratory samples shall be placed in clean, dry, airtight glass containers or other suitable containers which have no action on the product.

**10.1.2** The sample containers shall be of such a size that they are almost completely filled by the sample.

**10.1.3** Each sample container, after filling, shall be made airtight by means of a stopper or other suitable closure, and sealed in such a way that it cannot be opened and re-sealed without detection.

### **10.2 Labelling of samples**

**10.2.1** The laboratory samples shall be labelled as follows to give information concerning the sample and full details of the sampling.

- a) the date of sampling ;
- b) the name and address of the person taking the sample ;
- c) the name of the product ;
- d) the grade ;
- e) the variety ;
- f) the year of production.

**10.2.2** If any infestation is found at the time of sampling, a record of this shall be included in the details of sampling given on the sample container.



## **11 STORAGE AND DISPATCH OF SAMPLES**

**11.1** The laboratory samples shall be stored in such a manner that the temperature of the product does not vary unduly from the normal atmospheric temperature.

**11.2** Samples which are required to be kept for a long time shall be stored in a cool and dark place.

**11.3** Laboratory samples on which an analysis is to be carried out shall be dispatched to the laboratory as soon as possible.

## **12 SAMPLING REPORT**

If a sampling report is prepared, besides giving the usual information it shall make reference to the condition of the spice or condiment sampled, to the technique applied if this is other than that described in this standard, and to any circumstances that may have influenced the sampling.

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## **SLS CERTIFICATION MARK**

*The Sri Lanka Standards Institution is the owner of the registered certification mark shown below. Beneath the mark, the number of the Sri Lanka Standard relevant to the product is indicated. This mark may be used only by those who have obtained permits under the SLS certification marks scheme. The presence of this mark on or in relation to a product conveys the assurance that they have been produced to comply with the requirements of the relevant Sri Lanka Standard under a well designed system of quality control inspection and testing operated by the manufacturer and supervised by the SLSI which includes surveillance inspection of the factory, testing of both factory and market samples.*

*Further particulars of the terms and conditions of the permit may be obtained from the Sri Lanka Standards Institution, 17, Victoria Place, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 08.*



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The principal objects of the Institution as set out in the Act are to prepare standards and promote their adoption, to provide facilities for examination and testing of products, to operate a Certification Marks Scheme, to certify the quality of products meant for local consumption or exports and to promote standardization and quality control by educational, consultancy and research activity.

The Institution is financed by Government grants, and by the income from the sale of its publications and other services offered for Industry and Business Sector. Financial and administrative control is vested in a Council appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

The development and formulation of National Standards is carried out by Technical Experts and representatives of other interest groups, assisted by the permanent officers of the Institution. These Technical Committees are appointed under the purview of the Sectoral Committees which in turn are appointed by the Council. The Sectoral Committees give the final Technical approval for the Draft National Standards prior to the approval by the Council of the SLSI.

All members of the Technical and Sectoral Committees render their services in an honorary capacity. In this process the Institution endeavours to ensure adequate representation of all view points.

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