

# International Standard



# 874

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## Fresh fruits and vegetables — Sampling

*Fruits et légumes en l'état — Échantillonnage*

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ISO 874-1980



## Foreword

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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 874 was developed by Technical Committee ISO/TC 34, *Agricultural food products*.

It was submitted directly to the ISO Council, in accordance with clause 5.10.1 of the Directives for the technical work of ISO. It cancels and replaces ISO Recommendation R 874-1968, which had been approved by the member bodies of the following countries :

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Greece	Norway	Yugoslavia
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No member body had expressed disapproval of the document.

# Fresh fruits and vegetables — Sampling

## 0 Introduction

Correct sampling is a difficult process that requires most careful attention. Emphasis cannot therefore be too strongly laid on the necessity of obtaining a properly representative sample of fruits and vegetables. Careless or inaccurate sampling could lead to misunderstanding and unwarranted financial adjustments.

The procedures given in this International Standard are recognized as good practice, and it is strongly recommended that they be followed whenever practicable. It is recognized that it is difficult to lay down fixed rules to be followed in every case, and particular circumstances may render some modification of the method desirable.

The method specified is intended primarily for use in case of dispute between the contracting parties.

## 1 Scope and field of application

This International Standard specifies a method of sampling fresh fruits and vegetables, forming the subject of international trade, with a view to determining the quality or particular characteristics of the goods.

## 2 Definitions

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

**2.2 lot** : A stated quantity presumed to be of uniform characteristics (same variety, same degree of maturity, same kind of packaging, etc.), taken from the consignment, and allowing the quality of the consignment to be assessed.

**2.3 increment** : A small quantity of goods taken from a single position in the lot.

A series of increments, of approximately equal size, should be taken from different positions in the lot.

**2.4 bulk sample** : The quantity of goods obtained by combining and, if the product is suitable, mixing the increments taken from a specific lot.

**2.5 reduced sample** : A quantity obtained by reduction, if necessary, of the bulk sample, and which is representative of the lot.

**2.6 laboratory sample** : The quantity of goods taken from the bulk sample or the reduced sample and intended for analysis or other examination.

## 3 General

**3.1** Sampling may be carried out for routine examination of the product on the spot, or for laboratory tests of special characteristics. In both cases, samples shall be taken at random. However, in some cases, for example, for ascertaining the presence of a different variety or of a disorder of any kind, selective sampling shall be carried out. Sampling cannot then be carried out at random. Hence, before sampling is commenced, its purpose should be defined, i.e. the characteristics to be tested should be specified.

**3.2** Sampling shall be carried out in such a way that the increments represent all the characteristics of the lot. After isolation of damaged portions of the lot (cases, bags, etc.), separate samples shall be taken from the sound and from the damaged portions.

**3.3** A report shall be prepared when sampling is complete (see clause 6).

## 4 Method of sampling

### 4.1 Preparation of the lot for sampling

The lot shall be prepared for sampling in such a way that samples can be taken without hindrance or delay. The samples shall be taken by the interested parties or by a representative authority.

Each lot shall be sampled separately, but if the lot shows damage due to transport, the damaged portions of the lot (cases, bags, etc.), shall be isolated and sampled separately from the sound portions. Similarly, if the consignment is not considered by the consignee to be uniform, even if the consignor has not indicated this, it shall be divided into uniform lots and each lot shall be sampled, by agreement between buyer and seller, unless they have decided otherwise.

**4.2 Increments**

Increments shall be taken at random from different places and from different levels in the lot.

**4.2.1 Packaged products**

In the case of packaged products (wooden packages, cardboard packages, bags, etc.), the samples shall be taken at random in accordance with table 1.

**Table 1 — Number of packages to be taken**

Number of similar packages in the lot	Number of packages to be taken, each constituting an increment
Up to 100	5
101 to 300	7
301 to 500	9
501 to 1 000	10
Over 1 000	15 (min.)

**4.2.2 Products in bulk**

At least five increments shall be taken from each lot, corresponding to a total mass or a total number of bundles as given in table 2.

**Table 2 — Size of increments**

Mass of lot (in kilograms) or total number of bundles in lot	Total mass of increments (in kilograms) or total number of bundles to be taken
Up to 200	10
201 to 500	20
501 to 1 000	30
1 001 to 5 000	60
Over 5 000	100 (min.)

In the case of large fruits and vegetables (over 2 kg per unit) the increments shall consist of at least five units.

**4.3 Preparation of bulk sample or reduced sample**

The bulk sample is formed, if required, by assembling and, if possible, mixing the increments. The reduced sample, if required, is obtained by reduction of the bulk sample.

On-the-spot examination is carried out on the bulk sample or the reduced sample and this shall be carried out as quickly as possible after sampling in order to avoid any change in the characteristics to be examined.

**4.4 Size of laboratory samples**

The size of the laboratory samples depends on the laboratory tests to be carried out, which shall be indicated in the contract. Minimum quantities are given in table 3.

**Table 3 — Size of laboratory samples**

Product	Size of laboratory sample
Small fruits, medlars, walnuts, hazelnuts, almonds, chestnuts, and vegetables other than those listed below	1 kg
Cherries, morello cherries, plums	2 kg
Apricots, bananas, quinces, citrus fruits, peaches, apples, pears, grapes, avocados, garlic, aubergines, beetroots, cucumbers, turnips, cabbages, root vegetables, onions, paprika, radishes, tomatoes	3 kg
Pumpkins, melons, water-melons, pineapples	5 units
Cabbages, cauliflowers, red cabbages, lettuces	10 heads
Sweet corn	10 cobs
Vegetables in bundles	10 bundles

**5 Packaging and handling of laboratory samples**

**5.1 Packaging**

Laboratory samples which are not examined on the spot shall be well packed, to ensure that they will keep well.

The containers of the laboratory samples shall be sealed.

**5.2 Marking**

Samples which are to be dispatched shall be marked (labelled) so that they cannot be interchanged. The marking shall be legible and permanent, and shall include the following information:

- a) designation of the product, species and possibly variety, indication of quality grading;
- b) name of consignor;
- c) place of sampling;
- d) date and, for perishable products, time of sampling;
- e) identification mark of the lot and of the sample (dispatch note, number of vehicle, place of storage);
- f) number of sampling report;
- g) name and signature of sampler;
- h) if required, list of laboratory tests to be carried out.

**5.3 Dispatch and storage**

When constituted, the laboratory sample shall be dispatched as soon as possible to its destination, and the transport shall also be as rapid as possible.

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