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Ground paprika (*Capsicum annuum* L.) — Specification

Paprika (Capsicum annuum L.) en poudre — Spécifications



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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.

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ISO 7540 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 34, *Food products*, Subcommittee SC 7, *Spices and condiments*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 7540:1984), which has been technically revised.

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Introduction

Paprika (*Capsicum annuum* L.) originates from South America. The plant arrived in Europe after the discovery of the American continent (1492) and spread across the world in subsequent centuries.

Until the turn of the 19th century, the pungent ground (powdered) paprika was mainly known as a medicine. Shepherds used it as a spice, and this use became wider when cultivation of the sweet (non-pungent) varieties was developed.

Ground paprika plays an important role mainly in those countries where so-called fatty meals are preferred. The taste and natural colouring compounds of ground paprika improve the hedonic value of this type of meal. In addition, part of the natural carotene content of paprika is provitamin A, therefore the natural unsaturated oil content has a heart stimulant effect and the pungent varieties promote digestion.

Food industries use ground paprika in large amounts when producing meat products such as salamis and sausages. It is also used as a spice constituent of dried soups and is added to cheese, chips and spice mixtures.