



BSI Standards Publication

Ground cassava leaves (Isombe) — Specification

National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of [ISO 24081:2021](#).

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee AW/21, Fruit and vegetables juices.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its committee manager.

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© The British Standards Institution 2021
Published by BSI Standards Limited 2021

ISBN 978 0 539 06029 4

ICS 67.080.20

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This British Standard was published under the authority of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee on 28 February 2021.

Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

Date	Text affected
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INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD

ISO
24081

First edition
2021-01-22

Ground cassava leaves (Isombe) —
Specification

Feuilles de manioc émincées (Isombe) — Spécification



Reference number
ISO 24081:2021(E)



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Contents		Page
Foreword		iv
Introduction		v
1	Scope	1
2	Normative references	1
3	Terms and definitions	2
4	Essential composition and quality factors	2
4.1	Raw material	2
4.2	Essential composition factors	2
4.3	General quality factors	2
4.4	Specific quality factors	3
4.4.1	Particle size	3
4.4.2	Hydrocyanic acid content	3
5	Food additives	3
6	Contaminants	3
6.1	Heavy metals	3
6.2	Pesticide residues	3
6.3	Mycotoxins	3
7	Hygiene	4
8	Packaging	4
9	Labelling	4
10	Method of sampling	4
Bibliography		5

Foreword

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 34, *Food products*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Fruits and vegetables and their derived products*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

Cassava, originally from Brazil, is a staple root crop throughout the tropics where it is used in a variety of dishes. Cassava is grown overwhelmingly for its roots and is found in markets.

In some countries there is a market for cassava leaves, where it is used in soups and stews. Cassava contains cyanide, which varies greatly among cultivars and needs to be detoxified before human consumption. Cassava roots are cooked and this sufficiently detoxifies them. Cassava leaves also contain cyanide, and research has shown that traditional methods for preparing cassava leaves for consumption, including grinding, cooking and heat-treating them before consumption, sufficiently detoxifies the cyanide.

Ground cassava leaves (Isombe) — Specification

1 Scope

This document specifies requirements and methods of sampling and testing for ground cassava leaves, which are obtained from the processing of fresh cassava leaves (*Manihot esculenta* Crantz or *Manihot glaziovii*) intended for human consumption.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

[ISO 763](#), *Fruit and vegetable products — Determination of ash insoluble in hydrochloric acid*

ISO 874, *Fresh fruits and vegetables — Sampling*

ISO 1026, *Fruit and vegetable products — Determination of dry matter content by drying under reduced pressure and of water content by azeotropic distillation*

[ISO 2171](#), *Cereals, pulses and by-products — Determination of ash yield by incineration*

[ISO 4833-1](#), *Microbiology of the food chain — Horizontal method for the enumeration of microorganisms — Part 1: Colony count at 30 °C by the pour plate technique*

[ISO 4833-2](#), *Microbiology of the food chain — Horizontal method for the enumeration of microorganisms — Part 2: Colony count at 30 °C by the surface plating technique*

[ISO 5498](#), *Agricultural food products — Determination of crude fibre content — General method*

[ISO 6579-1](#), *Microbiology of the food chain — Horizontal method for the detection, enumeration and serotyping of Salmonella — Part 1: Detection of Salmonella spp.*

ISO 6633, *Fruits, vegetables and derived products — Determination of lead content — Flameless atomic absorption spectrometric method*

ISO 6634, *Fruits, vegetables and derived products — Determination of arsenic content — Silver diethyldithiocarbamate spectrophotometric method*

ISO 6637, *Fruits, vegetables and derived products — Determination of mercury content — Flameless atomic absorption method*

ISO 7952, *Fruits, vegetables and derived products — Determination of copper content — Method using flame atomic absorption spectrometry*

[ISO 16050](#), *Foodstuffs — Determination of aflatoxin B1, and the total content of aflatoxins B1, B2, G1 and G2 in cereals, nuts and derived products — High-performance liquid chromatographic method*

[ISO 16649-1](#), *Microbiology of the food chain — Horizontal method for the enumeration of beta-glucuronidase-positive Escherichia coli — Part 1: Colony-count technique at 44 °C using membranes and 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indolyl beta-D-glucuronide*

[ISO 21527-1](#), *Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs — Horizontal method for the enumeration of yeasts and moulds — Part 1: Colony count technique in products with water activity greater than 0,95*

[EN 16160](#), *Animal feeding stuffs — Determination of Hydrocyanic acid by HPLC*

- e) fresh in appearance and smell;
- f) sound/wholesome;
- g) free of damage caused by unsuitable washing or soaking;
- h) practically free of any visible foreign and extraneous matter;
- i) free of any foreign smell and odour.

4.4 Specific quality factors

4.4.1 Particle size

Not less than 90 % by mass shall pass through a 0,60 mm sieve for fine ground leaves. Not less than 90 % by mass shall pass through a 1,20 mm sieve for coarse ground leaves.

4.4.2 Hydrocyanic acid content

The total hydrocyanic acid content shall not exceed 10 mg/kg, when tested in accordance with [EN 16160](#).

5 Food additives

The product shall contain only permitted additives in accordance with CXS 192-1995.

6 Contaminants

6.1 Heavy metals

Ground cassava leaves shall be free from heavy metals in amounts that can represent a hazard to human health. They shall conform to the limits given in [Table 2](#).

Table 2 — Limits for metal contaminants

S/N	Heavy metal	Maximum limits (mg/kg)	Method of test
1	Copper	2,0	ISO 7952
2	Lead	0,1	ISO 6633
3	Arsenic	0,1	ISO 6634
4	Mercury	0,01	ISO 6637

6.2 Pesticide residues

Ground cassava leaves shall conform to the maximum residue limits established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission in the Codex Pesticides Residues in Food Online Database for this commodity.

6.3 Mycotoxins

Ground cassava leaves shall conform to the maximum mycotoxin limits established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission in CXS 193-1995.

Ground cassava leaves, when tested in accordance with [ISO 16050](#), shall conform to the following maximum limits of aflatoxins:

- a) total aflatoxins content: 10 µg/kg;

- b) aflatoxin B1 content: 5 µg/kg.

7 Hygiene

Ground cassava leaves shall be manufactured in premises conforming to the hygienic requirements stipulated in CXC 1-1969.

Ground cassava leaves shall conform to the microbiological limits given in [Table 3](#).

Table 3 — Microbiological limits for ground cassava leaves

Microorganisms	Maximum limit	Method of test
Total aerobic count, in CFU/g, max.	10 ⁴	ISO 4833-1 ISO 4833-2
<i>Escherichia coli</i> , per g	Shall be absent	ISO 16649-1
<i>Salmonella</i> , in 25 g	Shall be absent	ISO 6579-1
Yeast and mould, in CFU/g, max.	10 ²	ISO 21527-1

8 Packaging

8.1 Ground cassava leaves shall be packaged in containers that will safeguard the hygienic, nutritional, technological and organoleptic qualities of the product.

8.2 The containers, including packaging material, shall be made of substances that are safe and suitable for their intended use. They shall not impart any toxic substance or undesirable odour or flavour to the product.

9 Labelling

Labelling shall be in accordance with the requirements of CXS 1-1985. Each container shall include the following:

- a) the name of the food, which shall be “Ground cassava leaves”;
- b) the net contents;
- c) the name, location and address of the manufacturer;
- d) the country of origin;
- e) the lot identification number;
- f) the date of minimum durability (i.e. the sell by date);
- g) the statement “Human Food”.

10 Method of sampling

Ground cassava leaves shall be sampled in accordance with ISO 874.

Bibliography

[1] RS EAS 780, *Fresh cassava leaves — Specification*

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