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# International Standard



# 950

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INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION • МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ПО СТАНДАРТИЗАЦИИ • ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DE NORMALISATION

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## Cereals — Sampling (as grain)

*Céréales — Échantillonnage (des grains)*

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**Descriptors :** agricultural products, cereal products, grains (food), sampling, quality control, cargo transportation, labelling, sampling equipment, sampling tables.

## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards institutes (ISO member bodies). The work of developing International Standards is carried out through ISO technical committees. Every member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been set up 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.

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

It was submitted directly to the ISO Council, in accordance with clause 6.13.1 of the Directives for the technical work of ISO. It cancels and replaces ISO Recommendation R 950-1969, which had been approved by the member bodies of the following countries :

Australia	Hungary	Portugal
Brazil	India	Romania
Chile	Iran	Thailand
Czechoslovakia	Ireland	Turkey
Egypt, Arab Rep. of	Israel	United Kingdom
France	Netherlands	
Germany, F. R.	Poland	

The member body of the following country had expressed disapproval of the document on technical grounds :

USSR

This International Standard is based on Standard No. 101 of the International Association for Cereal Chemistry (ICC).

# Cereals — Sampling (as grain)

## 0 Introduction

Correct sampling is an operation that requires most careful attention. Emphasis cannot therefore be too strongly laid on the necessity of obtaining a properly representative sample of grain. 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, for example if it is desired to check the uniformity of a consignment by the examination of individual increments.

In certain areas there are widely recognized trade associations which prescribe rules for the sampling procedures to be used in contracts under their auspices. In no case will this International Standard override the rules laid down in such contracts.

## 1 Scope and field of application

This International Standard specifies general conditions relating to the sampling for assessment of quality of cereal grains.

It does not apply to seed grain.

## 2 Definitions

For the purpose of this International Standard, the following definitions apply.

**2.1 consignment** : The quantity of grain 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, taken from the consignment, and allowing the quantity to be assessed.

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

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

**2.4 bulk sample** : The quantity of grain obtained by combining and mixing the increments taken from a specific lot.

**2.5 laboratory sample** : The quantity of grain removed from the bulk sample and intended for analysis or other examination.

## 3 General

**3.1** Samples shall be taken jointly by sampling superintendents appointed by buyers and sellers or by a sampling superintendent appointed jointly.

**3.2** Samples shall be fully representative of the lots from which they are taken. Therefore, as the composition of the lot is seldom uniform, a sufficient number of increments shall be taken and carefully mixed, thus giving a bulk sample from which are obtained, by successive divisions, the laboratory samples.

**3.3** It is essential that grain which is sea-damaged or otherwise damaged in transit or out of condition is kept separate from the sound grain and sampled separately. Samples of the unsound material shall not be mixed with samples of the sound material.

**3.4** Special care is necessary to ensure that all sampling apparatus is clean, dry and free from foreign odours.

Sampling shall be carried out in such a manner as to protect the samples, the sampling instruments, and the containers in which the samples are placed, from adventitious contamination such as rain, dust, etc.

## 4 Apparatus

Apparatus is required as follows (see figures 1 to 9 for examples).

NOTE — Many different types and variations of apparatus are available. The dimensions given in the figures are included, therefore, solely as a guide.

### 4.1 Sampling from bulk

Shovels, hand-scoops, cylindrical samplers and apparatus for taking increments periodically from a flow of grain.

**4.2 Sampling from bags**

Sack-type spears or triers.

**4.3 Mixing and dividing**

Shovels and dividing apparatus.

**5 Location of sampling**

The location and time of sampling shall be determined by agreement between the parties concerned. Particular requirements applying to loading and discharge are given below.

**5.1 Loading**

It is important that grain which is to be dispatched by vessel is sampled during loading, or immediately before, at the place of loading.

**5.2 Discharge**

Most grain is received from ocean-going vessels or river transport. In both cases, sampling shall be carried out during discharge from the vessel.

**6 Method of taking samples from cereals carried in bulk**

**6.1 Carriage by sea or inland waterway**

6.1.1 Unless otherwise specified in the contract, consignments shall be considered in lots of 500 tonnes<sup>1)</sup> or such part thereof as constitutes a single consignment.

6.1.2 When sampling takes place while the product is in motion, increments shall be taken at time intervals dependent on the rate of flow.

6.1.3 When bulk grain is sampled in the hold during discharge, increments shall be taken from as many places as possible, excluding the run, and at intervals determined by the rate of discharge.

6.1.4 If sampling takes place from weigh hoppers, increments shall be taken by means of cylindrical samplers, shovels, or mechanical samplers in accordance with the practice of the port.

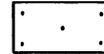
6.1.5 The procedure for silos or warehouses is necessarily dependent on local conditions.

**6.2 Carriage by rail or road**

6.2.1 Unless otherwise specified in the contract, each laden wagon or lorry shall be sampled.

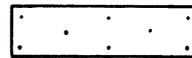
6.2.2 If sampling takes place from laden wagons or lorries, the increments shall be taken throughout the whole depth of the layer, by means of a cylindrical sampler and at the following points :

**Wagons or lorries up to 15 t :**



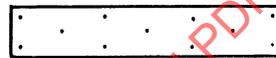
Five sampling points (middle and approximately 500 mm from sides)

**Wagons from 15 to 30 t :**



Eight sampling points

**Wagons from 30 to 50 t :**



Eleven sampling points

6.2.3 If the type of wagon does not allow samples to be taken in this manner, or by agreement between buyer and seller, the method of sampling shall be as described in 6.1.2.

**7 Method of taking samples from cereals carried in bags**

Unless otherwise specified in the contract or unless the practice at a port requires otherwise, increments shall be taken from different parts of a bag (for example, top, middle and bottom) by means of a sack-type spear from the number of bags specified in table 1.

**Table 1 — Number of bags to be sampled**

in consignment	Number of bags
	to be sampled
Up to 10	Each bag
10 to 100	10, taken at random
More than 100	Square root (approximately) of total number, taken according to a suitable sampling scheme*

\* See, for example, the annex.

**8 Bulk sample**

The bulk sample shall be formed by combining the increments and mixing them well.

1) Metric tonnes. 1 t = 1 000 kg.

## 9 Laboratory samples

The bulk sample shall be divided to obtain the required number of laboratory samples by use of the apparatus mentioned in clause 4. The number of laboratory samples to be taken for analysis and arbitration shall be specified in the contract or otherwise agreed between the buyer and the seller.

## 10 Size of samples

Samples of the sizes given in table 2 are usually suitable for all grains.

Table 2 — Sizes of samples

Lot	Increment	Bulk sample	Laboratory sample
Up to 500 tonnes	1 kg (max.)	100 kg	5 kg

Larger or smaller laboratory samples may be required in some cases, according to the tests to be carried out.

## 11 Packaging and labelling of samples

### 11.1 Packaging of samples

11.1.1 The laboratory samples shall be packed in unglazed, unbleached, insewn, cotton bags of very close texture.<sup>1)</sup>

11.1.2 Samples for the determination of moisture, or for other tests in which it is important to avoid the loss of volatile matter (for example, examination for evidence of chemical treatment), shall be packed in air-tight and moisture-tight containers fitted with air-tight and moisture-tight closures. The containers shall be completely filled and the closures shall be sealed to prevent loosening or tampering.

11.1.3 The bags and other containers shall carry the seal of each sampler.

### 11.2 Labels for samples

If paper labels are used for the samples, they shall be of a suitably high quality for the purpose. The eyelet hole on the label shall be reinforced. The label shall be sealed to the container holding the sample and shall carry the seal of each sampler; these seals shall be arranged in such a way as to guarantee the inviolability of the sample.

The information on the label shall include such of the following items as are required by the terms of the contract :

- 1) Ship or wagon

- 2) From
- 3) To
- 4) Date of arrival
- 5) Quantity
- 6) Bulk/Bags/Number/
- 7) Goods
- 8) Identification mark or Lot No
- 9) Name of seller
- 10) Name of buyer
- 11) Contract No. and Date
- 12) Date of sampling
- 13) Date of final discharge
- 14) Place and point of sampling
- 15) Sampled by

The information recorded on the label shall be permanent.

By agreement between seller and buyer, a duplicate label may be included inside the sample container, unless the sample is intended for moisture determination. Also by agreement between seller and buyer, the above information may also be recorded indelibly on the bags containing the samples.

## 12 Dispatch of samples

Laboratory samples shall be dispatched as soon as possible, and only in exceptional circumstances more than 48 h after sampling has been completed, non-business days excluded.

## 13 Sampling report

If a sampling report is prepared, besides giving the usual information, it shall make reference to the condition of the grain sampled, including signs of insect infestation visible in the warehouse or silo, or during working the vessel or other carrier. This infestation is not always readily apparent in the sample except on close inspection or sieving. The report shall also refer to the technique applied, if this is other than that described in this International Standard, and all the circumstances that may have influenced sampling.

1) It is recognized that jute, though not as satisfactory as cotton, is sometimes used.

Dimensions in millimetres

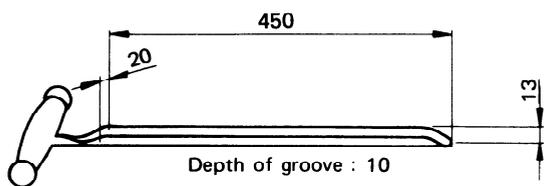


Figure 1 — Sampling spear (open trier)

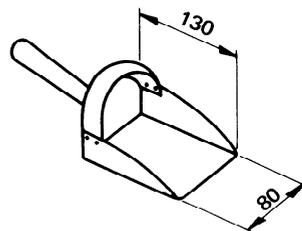


Figure 2 — Hand-scoop

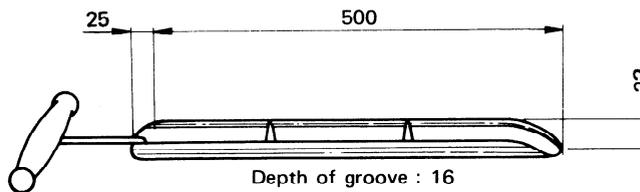


Figure 3 — Divided sampling spear (open trier)

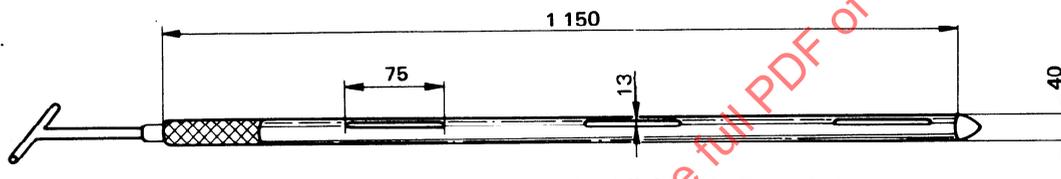


Figure 4 — Cylindrical sampler (divided bulk probe)

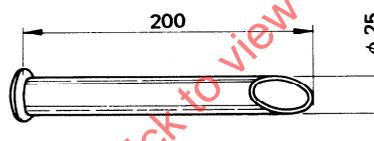


Figure 5 — Running iron (sack-type trier)

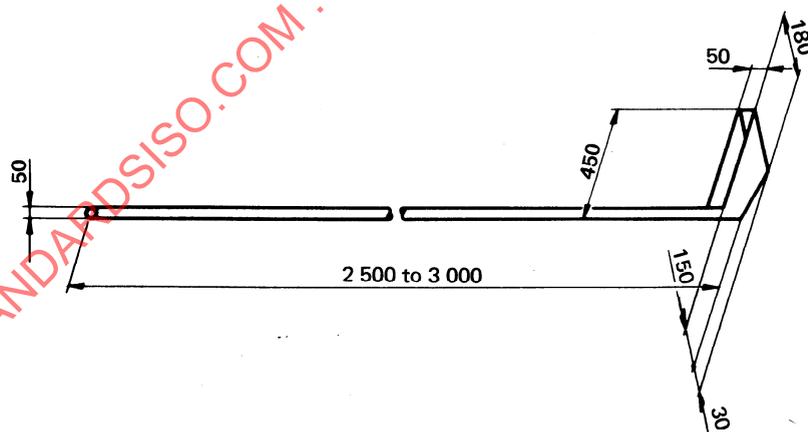


Figure 6 — Falling stream sampler (Pelican type)

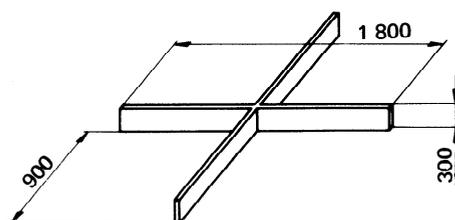


Figure 7 — Quartering irons