
INTERNATIONAL STANDARD



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Ware potatoes — Guide to storage

Pommes de terre destinées à la consommation — Guide pour l'entreposage

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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 2165 was drawn up by Technical Committee ISO/TC 34, *Agricultural food products*, and circulated to the Member Bodies in November 1970.

It has been approved by the Member Bodies of the following countries :

Australia	Hungary	Romania
Austria	India	South Africa, Rep. of
Belgium	Iran	Sweden
Chile	Israel	Thailand
Czechoslovakia	Netherlands	Turkey
Egypt, Arab Rep. of	New Zealand	United Kingdom
France	Poland	U.S.S.R.
Germany	Portugal	

No Member Body expressed disapproval of the document.

Ware potatoes — Guide to storage

1 SCOPE AND FIELD OF APPLICATION

This International Standard describes methods for obtaining conditions for the successful keeping, with or without artificial cooling, of potatoes of the species *Solanum tuberosum* Linnaeus intended for consumption, either directly or after industrial processing.

It does not apply to early (new) potatoes or to seed potatoes.

See also the limits of application given in the annex.

2 REFERENCE

ISO 2169, *Fruits and vegetables — Physical conditions in cold stores — Definitions and measurement*.

3 CONDITIONS OF HARVESTING AND PUTTING INTO STORE

3.1 Harvesting

The potato tubers should be harvested mature. The skin should be firm, should not peel off under mere rubbing and should be free from cracks.

3.2 Quality characteristics for storage

The lots to be stored must not contain tubers which are bruised, frozen, rotten, affected by fungal decay (mould) or which have sprouted. This may possibly be achieved by preliminary sorting, which needs to be carried out with care since it frequently causes bruises which may be more detrimental in storage than the presence of these defects.

3.3 Putting into store

The potatoes should be put into store as soon as possible after harvesting. For 10 to 14 days after putting into store, the tubers should be held at a temperature of +13 to +18 °C and high relative humidity for suberization and healing of wounds. After this period, the temperature must be lowered as quickly as possible.

3.4 Method of storage

The potatoes may be stored in containers, box pallets, boxes or stacking trays, bags, or in bulk.

When they are stored in bags or in bulk, and if no means are provided to prevent the lower layers from being crushed by the upper layers, the height of the tuber layer should be specified according to the hardness of the variety, the quality of the lot and the condition of the air-circulating device. The cases must be arranged so as to permit free circulation of the air.

Ware potatoes should be stored away from the light.

4 OPTIMUM STORAGE CONDITIONS¹⁾

4.1 Temperature

The optimum temperature is between +3 and +6 °C.

However, in the case of potatoes intended for certain industrial processing operations, for example of the "crisps" type, it is recommended that this temperature be raised to between +7 and +10 °C, depending upon the variety. Moreover, it is recommended that for these potatoes the temperature be raised to between +10 and +14 °C — and possibly up to +20 °C — during the last two weeks of storage.

4.2 Relative humidity

The optimum relative humidity is between 85 and 95 %.

4.3 Air circulation

The containers and the way in which they are stacked should permit free circulation of air.

4.3.1 Mixing

The mixing of air in a closed circuit makes it possible to render the temperature and relative humidity uniform. An air-circulation ratio of between 20 and 30 is recommended.

4.3.2 Air change

Stored potatoes produce an accumulation of carbon dioxide and of heat due to respiration, which should be removed. This is done by changing the atmosphere.

1) For definitions and measurement of the physical quantities affecting storage, see ISO 2169.