

Table 1. Sri Lanka Standards for Black Pepper, Whole

Characteristic	Requirements		
	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
Physical requirements			
Extraneous matter ¹	1	2	2
Light, broken berries & skins ¹	2	10	15
Pinheads ¹	0.5	1	2
Bulk density ²	550	500	450
Chemical requirements			
Moisture Content ³	12	14	14
Total ash ³	7	7	7
Non volatile ether extract ⁴	10	10	10
Volatile oil ⁴	3	3	3
Piperine ⁴	7	7	7
Microbiological limits			
<i>Escherichia coli</i> (MPN/g)	Negative	Negative	Negative
<i>Salmonella</i> (detection/25g)	Negative	Negative	Negative

Note:

¹ per cent by mass maximum

² g/l minimum

³ percent by mass on dry basis maximum

⁴ percent by mass on dry basis minimum

Table 2. Sri Lanka Standards for White Pepper, Whole

Characteristic	Requirements	
	Grade 1	Grade 2
Physical requirements		
Extraneous matter ¹	1	2
Broken berries ¹	3	4
Black berries ¹	1	2
Light berries ¹	1	1
Bulk density ²	600	600
Chemical requirements		
Moisture Content ³	13	15
Total ash ³	4	4
Non volatile ether extract ⁴	8	8
Volatile oil ⁴	2	2
Piperine ⁴	6	6
Microbiological limits		
<i>Escherichia coli</i> (MPN/g)	Negative	negative
<i>Salmonella</i> (detection/25g)	Negative	negative

Note:

¹ per cent by mass maximum

² g/l minimum

³ percent by mass on dry basis maximum

⁴ percent by mass on dry basis minimum

Table 3. Sri Lanka Standards for Ground Black and white Pepper

Characteristic	Ground Black Pepper	Ground White Pepper
Moisture Content ³	13.0	14.0
Total ash ³	7.0	3.5
Non volatile ether extract ⁴	10.0	8.0
Volatile oil ⁴	1.5*	1.0*
Piperine ⁴	5.0	5.0
Acid-insoluble ash ³	1.2	0.5
Crude fibre ³	17.5	6.5

** The volatile oil content shall be determined immediately after grinding*

Microbiological limits	Ground Black Pepper	Ground White Pepper
Total plate count, per g (Max)	5x10 ⁴	5x10 ⁴
Yeast and Mould count, per g (Max)	1x10 ⁴	1x10 ⁴
<i>Escherichia coli</i> (MPN/g)	Negative	Negative
<i>Salmonella</i> (detection/25g)	Negative	Negative

Heavy metals	Ground Black Pepper	Ground White Pepper
Arsenic(as As) ⁵	5	5
Lead (as Pb) ⁵	10	10
Copper (as Cu) ⁵	20	20
Zinc (as Zn) ⁵	50	50
Tin (as Sn) ⁵	200	200

Note: ⁵ mg/kg (Max.)