Technical Report

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Traditional Chinese medicine — Report on the global industry and standardization development of *Panax ginseng*

Médecine traditionnelle chinoise — Rapport sur le développement de l'industrie mondiale et de la normalisation du Panax ginseng

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Foreword

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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.

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Introduction

Panax ginseng is the dried root and rhizome of *Panax ginseng* C. A. Meyer. It has the effects of greatly tonifying the original qi, restoring the pulse and relieving collapse, invigorating the spleen and benefiting the lungs. It is used primarily for symptoms such as weakness, cold extremities with faint pulse and spleen deficiency with reduced appetite.[2] As a kind of rare and valuable Chinese materia medica, *Panax ginseng* has a long history of medicinal use. Its single and compound formulas, as well as a variety of modern preparations, play an important role in clinical practice. Furthermore, *Panax ginseng* is widely applied in many other fields such as food, healthcare and daily chemical products.

As one of the Chinese materia medica with the largest global trade volume, *Panax ginseng* occupies a large market scale. It is mainly cultivated in China, the Republic of Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan and the Russian Federation, among which China and the Republic of Korea are the main countries for its production and consumption, accounting for over 80 % of the total yield in the world. In addition, *Panax ginseng* is also widely used in Europe and the United States, as well as some other countries in Asia.

Panax ginseng has been recorded in many national pharmacopoeias and regional standards. However, due to the restrictions on different national regulations and different purposes for standard development, the requirements specified by such pharmacopoeias and regional standards differ in their scope, items, indicators and other aspects.[3] The lack of unified quality and safety standards gives rise to some negative phenomena, such as unqualified and fake products available on the market, substandard products sold at high prices and confusion with specification and grades of *Panax ginseng* products. In addition, the lack of unified standards in terms of the terminology and processing technology leads to confusion with products' names and brings lots of difficulties not only to supervision authorities but also to consumers. Therefore, it is urgent to develop unified International Standards for the whole industry chain of *Panax ginseng*, including the production, processing, marketing and other links.

Standards for the whole industry chain of *Panax ginseng* would guarantee the sustainable development of the industry and international trade in the aspects of promoting the manufacturing, improving the quality, regulating the market and protecting the consumers' interests. This document conducts a comprehensive survey on the industry of *Panax ginseng* in terms of its origin and application history, medicinal value, geographical distribution, cultivation methods, processing methods, the development of industry, international trade and standardization status. It will be beneficial to provide reference and information support for the follow-up formulation of the International Standards for *Panax ginseng*.

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Traditional Chinese medicine — Report on the global industry and standardization development of *Panax ginseng*

1 Scope

This document reports on the global industry and standardization development of *Panax ginseng*. It includes its origin and application history, medicinal value, geographical distribution, cultivation and processing methods, industry development, international trade, current status and development demands for standardization.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/

3.1
fresh ginseng
ginseng root harvested from the field, before being washed

[SOURCE: ISO 19610:2017, 3.1]

3.2
washed ginseng
raw ginseng root washed with drinking water to remove any foreign matter and then used as the starting material for manufacturing red ginseng

[SOURCE: ISO 19610:2017, 3.2]

3.3
steamed ginseng
ginseng produced through a process of steaming the washed ginseng to gelatinize the starch content

[SOURCE: ISO 19610:2017, 3.3]

3.4
red ginseng
ginseng root from *Panax ginseng* C.A. Meyer, treated with steam and then dried and packaged as whole or cut roots

[SOURCE: ISO 19610:2017, 3.4]

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