1. SCOPE
This standard applies to the product defined in Section 2 below and offered for direct consumption including for catering purposes or for repacking if required. It does not apply to the product when indicated as being intended for further processing.

2. DESCRIPTION
2.1 PRODUCT DEFINITION
Fermented Soybean Paste is a fermented food whose essential ingredient is soybean. The product is a paste type which has various physical properties such as semi-solid and partly retained shape of soybean and which is manufactured from the ingredients stipulated in Sections 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 through the following processes:
(a) Boiled or steamed soybeans, or the mixture of boiled or steamed soybeans and grains, are fermented with naturally occurring or cultivated microorganisms;
(b) Mixed with salt or brine and others;
(c) The mixture or solid part of the mixture shall be aged for a certain period of time until the quality of the product meets the requirements stipulated in Section 3.2 Quality Factors; and
(d) Processed by heat or other appropriate means, before or after being hermetically sealed in a container, so as to prevent spoilage.

3. ESSENTIAL COMPOSITION AND QUALITY FACTORS
3.1 COMPOSITION
3.1.1 Basic Ingredients
(a) Soybeans
(b) Salt
(c) Potable water
(d) Naturally occurring or cultivated microorganisms (Bacillus spp. and/or Aspergillus spp., which are not pathogenic and do not produce toxins)

3.1.2 Optional Ingredients
(a) Grains and/or flour (wheat, rice, barley, etc.)
(b) Yeast and/or yeast extracts
(c) Lactobacillus and/or Lactococcus
(d) Distilled ethyl alcohol derived from agricultural products (tapioca, sugar cane, sweet potato, etc.)
(e) Sugars
(f) Starch syrup
(g) Natural flavouring raw materials (powder or extract from dried fish or seaweed, spices and herbs, etc.)
3.2 QUALITY FACTORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fermented soybean paste manufactured with soybean only</th>
<th>Fermented soybean paste manufactured with soybean and grains</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total nitrogen (w/w)²</td>
<td>No less than 1.6 %</td>
<td>No less than 0.6 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amino nitrogen (w/w)</td>
<td>No less than 0.3 %</td>
<td>No less than 0.12 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moisture (w/w)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Not more than 60 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The product shall have the flavour, odour, colour and texture characteristic of the product.

3.3 CLASSIFICATION OF "DEFECTIVES"

Any container that fails to meet the applicable quality requirements, as set out in Section 3.2, should be considered a "defective".

3.4 LOT ACCEPTANCE

A lot should be considered as meeting the applicable quality requirements referred to in Section 3.2, when the number of "defectives", as defined in Section 3.3, does not exceed the acceptance number (c) of the appropriate sampling plans.

4. FOOD ADDITIVES

Acidity regulators, antioxidants, colours, flavours enhancers, preservatives, stabilizers and sweeteners listed in Table 3 of the Codex General Standard for Food Additives (CODEX STAN 192-1995) are acceptable for use in food conforming to this standard.

4.1 ANTIOXIDANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INS No.</th>
<th>Name of Food Additive</th>
<th>Maximum Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>539</td>
<td>Sodium thiosulphate</td>
<td>30 mg/kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>as sulphur dioxide</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.2 COLOUR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INS No.</th>
<th>Name of Food Additive</th>
<th>Maximum Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>101(i)</td>
<td>Riboflavin, synthetic</td>
<td>10 mg/kg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.3 PRESERVATIVES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INS No.</th>
<th>Name of Food Additive</th>
<th>Maximum Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>Sorbic acid</td>
<td>1000 mg/kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>202</td>
<td>Potassium sorbate</td>
<td>as sorbic acid, singly or in combination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>203</td>
<td>Calcium sorbate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>210</td>
<td>Benzoic acid</td>
<td>1000 mg/kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>211</td>
<td>Sodium benzoate</td>
<td>as benzoic acid, singly or in combination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>212</td>
<td>Potassium benzoate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.4 SWEETENERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INS No.</th>
<th>Name of Food Additive</th>
<th>Maximum Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>950</td>
<td>Acesulfame potassium</td>
<td>350 mg/kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>954(iv)</td>
<td>Sodium saccharin</td>
<td>200 mg/kg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.5 PROCESSING AIDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INS No.</th>
<th>Name of Processing Aid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Protease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hemicellulase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lipase</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

² The nitrogen conversion factor of 5.71 should be used.
5. **CONTAMINANTS**

The products covered by this Standard shall comply with the maximum levels of the *Codex General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods* (CODEX/STAN 193-1995).

The products covered by this Standard shall comply with the maximum residue limits for pesticides established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

6. **HYGIENE**

6.1 It is recommended that the products covered by the provisions of this Standard be prepared and handled in accordance with the appropriate sections of the *Recommended International Code of Practice - General Principles of Food Hygiene* (CAC/RCP 1-1969), and other relevant Codex texts, such as Codes of Hygienic Practice and Codes of Practice.

6.2 The products should comply with any microbiological criteria established in accordance with the *Principles for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria for Foods* (CAC/GL 21-1997).

7. **WEIGHTS AND MEASURES**

7.1 **MINIMUM FILL**

The container should be well filled with the product which should occupy not less than 90% (minus any necessary head space according to good manufacturing practices) of the water capacity of the container. The water capacity of the container is the value of distilled water at 20°C which the sealed container will hold when completely filled. Taking into account various characteristics of the products, minimum fill may not be applied to some types of products.

7.2 **CLASSIFICATION OF DEFECTIVES**

A container that fails to meet the requirement for minimum fill of section 7.1 should be considered as a “defective”.

7.3 **LOT ACCEPTANCE**

A lot should be considered as meeting the requirements of section 7.1 when the number of “defectives”, as defined in section 7.2 does not exceed the number (c) of the appropriate sampling plan.

8. **LABELLING**

The products covered by the provisions of this standard shall be labelled in accordance with the *Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (CODEX STAN 1-1985).

8.1 **PRODUCT NAME**

The name of the product shall be "Fermented Soybean Paste". Other names may be used if allowed by national legislation in the country where the product is consumed. The name of the product may include the name of an ingredient which characterizes the product.

8.2 **“HALAL” CLAIM**

Claims on “Halal” fermented soybean paste shall follow the appropriate section of the *Codex General Guidelines for Use of the Term “Halal”* (CAC/GL 24-1997).
8.3 **Labelling of Non-retail Containers**

Information for non-retail containers shall be given on the container or in accompanying documents, except that the name of the product, lot identification and the name and address of the manufacturer, packer or distributor, as well as storage instructions, shall appear on the container. However, lot identification, and the name and address of the manufacturer, packer or distributor may be replaced by an identification mark, provided that such a mark is clearly identifiable with the accompanying documents.

9. **Methods of Analysis and Sampling**

9.1 **Determination of Total Nitrogen**

According to AOAC 984.13.

9.2 **Determination of Amino Nitrogen**

According to AOAC 920.154 B (*Sorensen Method*) on the following conditions:

**Preparation of test samples**

Weigh 2 g of sample into a 250 ml beaker and mix the sample with 100 ml of cold (15°C) NH₃-free H₂O and then stir the mixture for 60 min. Next, decant the mixture through a quantitative filter and collect the filtrate in a 100 ml volumetric flask.

**Endpoint**

A pH meter shall be used to determine the endpoint instead of optical verification of colours.

9.3 **Determination of Moisture**

According to AOAC 934.01 at a drying temperature of 70°C or lower.