



Head Office: The Old Grammar School, 3-7 Market Square, Amersham, Bucks. HP7 0DF  
Tel: (44) 1494 434600 Email: [foodnettechnical@foodnet.ltd.uk](mailto:foodnettechnical@foodnet.ltd.uk)

Technical Specification		
<b>Product:</b> Spinach Chopped Leaf Portions IQF	<b>Last Update:</b> 31/01/2026	<b>Product Code:</b> SPI002

**PACK SIZE** 1 x 10kg; 4 x 2.5kg; 1 x 15kg;

**ORIGIN:** Belgium, France, The Netherlands

**GENERAL** The product shall be prepared from fresh sound raw material that is free from all toxic residues and taints and shall comply with all current UK/EU Food Legislation. The product is intended to be used as ingredient that is further processed and heat-treated before final consumption (minimum of +75°C for 30 seconds).

**INGREDIENTS** Spinach 100% Declare as: Spinach  
(*Spinacia oleracea*)

**PROCESSING** Spinach leaves are delivered to the factory, cleaned, inspected, washed, cut, blanched, cooled and frozen (-18°C or below) into 30g pellets and stored in bulk pallets at -18°C or below until required for re-packing.

**PACKING** During packing, the spinach is inspected before weighing and filling into blue poly lined cartons. The cartons are Best Before and Production date coded, check weighed and metal detected, palletised and stretch wrapped before being returned to store at -23°C to await despatch to the UK at -18°C.

#### **DEFECT TOLERANCES**

<b>Per 1000g</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
Foreign Matter	Nil
EVM	2
Stalk	35%w/w
Defect in colour	2%w/w
Root Pieces	2
Sand	0.1%w/w
Nitrates	<2000 ppm

#### **DEFINITIONS OF DEFECTS**

##### **Foreign Material**

This includes any material not derived from the spinach plant, or defined as EVM, Examples of foreign matter include insects, pieces of insect, wood, glass, stones, sand, metal, snails, slugs etc. unacceptable.

##### **Extraneous Vegetable Matter (EVM)**

This includes any harmless vegetable matter other than spinach leaves and stalks that is not derived from the spinach plant.

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**Defect in colour**

These are spinach leaves that are yellow or have a distinct discolouration

**Root Pieces**

These are parts of the root structure of the spinach plant.

**ORGANOLEPSIS** (Carried out on a thawed sample.)

**COLOUR**

Characteristic green almost completely uniform throughout the sample.

**FLAVOUR**

Characteristic spinach flavour. Shall be slightly sweet.

**TEXTURE**

Tender, firm but not hard, with no stringiness.



Average sample

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### **MICROBIOLOGICAL**

<b>Organism</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
<b><i>TVC @ 30°C</i></b>	$1 \times 10^5$	$1 \times 10^6$
<b><i>Total Coliforms</i></b>	$1 \times 10^2$	$3 \times 10^3$
<b><i>E. coli</i></b>	Nil	$1 \times 10^2$
<b><i>Listeria mono</i></b>	Absent in 25g	$1 \times 10^2$
<b><i>Salmonella</i></b>	Absent in 25g	Absent in 25g

**ANALYTICAL** Peroxidase Negative.  
Nitrates  $\leq 2000$ ppm

**WEIGHT CONTROL** The product shall be packed to minimum weight.

**METAL DETECTION** All cartons shall be passed through a metal detector. The system shall be tested at least every 2 hours using ferrous, non-ferrous and stainless-steel test pieces.

**BEST BEFORE DATE** The product shall be twenty-four months following the month of packing. Minimum BB date on delivery: 6 months.

**TRACEABILITY INFO** Production date or Lot number printed on the label as well as customer order number and/or delivery date.

**STORAGE CONDITIONS** Keep frozen at - 18°C at all times.

**CARTON LINERS** Blue food grade polythene liner of a minimum thickness of 30µm.

**CARTONS** Corrugated fibreboard of glued construction, no metal staples to be used. Shall be sealed using blue adhesive tape.

**SACKS** Blue food grade polythene liner of a minimum thickness of 110µm.

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## **NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION**

This data conforms to the requirements of EC Council Directive 90/496/EEC

100g of uncooked spinach typically contains: -

Parameter	Value / 100g	Methodology
Energy - kcal	21	McCance & Widdowson 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition
Energy - kJ	90	McCance & Widdowson 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition
Moisture	91.6g	McCance & Widdowson 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition
Carbohydrate	0.5g	McCance & Widdowson 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition
- as sugars	0.3g	McCance & Widdowson 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition
- as polyols	0.0g	McCance & Widdowson 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition
- as starch	0.2g	McCance & Widdowson 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition
Fat	0.8g	McCance & Widdowson 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition
- as saturates	0.1g	McCance & Widdowson 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition
- as mono unsaturates	0.1g	McCance & Widdowson 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition
- as poly unsaturates	0.5g	McCance & Widdowson 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition
Protein	3.1g	McCance & Widdowson 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition
Fibre	2.1g	McCance & Widdowson 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition
Sodium	16mg	McCance & Widdowson 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition
Vitamin A	1101µg	McCance & Widdowson 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition
Vitamin B <sub>6</sub>	0.9mg	McCance & Widdowson 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition
Vitamin B <sub>12</sub>	0µg	McCance & Widdowson 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition
Vitamin C	6mg	McCance & Widdowson 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition
Vitamin D	0.0µg	McCance & Widdowson 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition
Vitamin E	1.71mg	McCance & Widdowson 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition
Thiamin	0.06mg	McCance & Widdowson 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition
Riboflavin	0.05mg	McCance & Widdowson 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition
Niacin	0.9mg	McCance & Widdowson 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition
Folic Acid	52µg	McCance & Widdowson 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition
Biotin	0.1µg	McCance & Widdowson 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition
Pantothenic Acid	0.21mg	McCance & Widdowson 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition
Calcium	150mg	McCance & Widdowson 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition
Phosphorus	48mg	McCance & Widdowson 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition
Iron	1.7mg	McCance & Widdowson 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition
Magnesium	31mg	McCance & Widdowson 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition
Zinc	0.6mg	McCance & Widdowson 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition
Iodine	2µg	McCance & Widdowson 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition
Potassium	340mg	McCance & Widdowson 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition

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### **GMO DECLARATION**

I confirm that this product is not genetically modified or produced from genetically modified organisms. No genetically modified organisms have been used as processing aids or additives. This product does not require specific GM labelling as per Regulation (EC) 1829/2003.

Name: Gianluca Oberto

Job Title: Technical Manager

Signature: 

Date: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026

### **IRRADIATION POLICY**

I confirm that the product supplied by Foodnet Limited under this specification has not undergone any irradiation treatment or process. I further confirm that no ingredient or processing aid used in conjunction with this product has undergone irradiation treatment.

Name: Gianluca Oberto

Job Title: Technical Manager

Signature: 

Date: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026

### **COSHH Data**

Treat as you would any frozen material i.e. if engaged in prolonged handling of the fruit wear gloves.

Care should be used when lifting full cases of frozen fruits.

There are no other perceived COSHH implications regarding the use of frozen fruits.

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## **FOOD INTOLERANCE**

<b>Food Intolerance Data</b>				
Does the material supplied contain any of the following? (NO) Absent, (YES) Present				
<b>Allergen</b>	<b>NO / YES</b>		<b>Reason for presence if YES</b>	
Milk & Milk Derivatives	NO			
Egg & Egg Derivatives	NO			
Animal Products (*)	NO			
Fish/Shellfish/Crustations/Molluscs	NO			
Cereals (**)	NO			
Gluten	NO			
Yeast/Yeast Extract	NO			
Soya/Soya Derivatives	NO			
Fruit & Fruit Derivatives	NO			
Beef & Beef Products	NO			
Pork & Pork Products	NO			
Lamb & Lamb Products	NO			
Poultry & Poultry Products	NO			
Legumes	NO			
Peanuts	NO			
Sulphite >10ppm	NO			
MSG	NO			
BHA / BHT	NO			
Benzoates	NO			
Glutamates	NO			
Azo & Coal Tar Dyes	NO			
Added Colour	NO			
Added Flavour	NO			
Preservatives	NO			
Antioxidants	NO			
Added Salt	NO			
Nuts/Nut Oils	NO			
Caffeine	NO			
Sesame Products	NO			
Garlic	NO			
Poppy Seeds	NO			
Mustard	NO			
Celery/Celериac	NO			
Lupins	NO			
*Including any product derived from slaughtered animals, e.g. gelatine, rennet				
**Including wheat, corn, barley, rye, oats, etc.				
<b><u>Please be aware the manufacturing sites we supply this item from may handle allergens in production. Procedures are in place to prevent cross-contamination.</u></b>				
<b>Is this product Suitable for:</b>				
<b>Vegans</b>	Yes (Not certified)	<b>Vegetarians</b>	Yes	<b>Organic</b> No
<b>Halal</b>	Yes (Not certified)	<b>Kosher</b>	Yes (Not certified)	

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**FOOD ADDITIVES**

E. Number	Name	In Which Ingredient	Function in Ingredient	Function in Final Product	% In Final Product

THE CONTENTS OF THIS SPECIFICATION ARE CONFIDENTIAL TO FOODNET LTD AND THE CUSTOMER, AND MAY NOT BE DISCLOSED TO ANY OTHER PARTY.

Signed on behalf of Foodnet Ltd:

Name: Gianluca Oberto

Job Title: Technical Manager

Signature: 

Date: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026

Signed on behalf of the Customer:

Name:

Job Title:

Signature:

Date:

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## PROCESS INFORMATION

### PROCESS FLOW CHART\*

\*Note: this is a generic flow chart which does not refer to any specific production site.

#### SPINACH LEAF PORTIONS

Raw Material Receipt → QA Check



Hopper



Cleaning



Inspection



Flood Washing



Cutting



Blanching



Cooling → 10°C



Formed into pellets



Freezing → -18°C QA Check



Cold Storage → -18°C



Tipping



Inspection



Carton Fill → QA Check



Check Weigh



Metal Detection → QA Check



Palletise



Cold Storage → -18°C



Despatch → -18°C

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**Issues & Amendments**

Issue N°	Amend. N°	Date	Amendments	Compiled by
1	1	01/02/2016	New entry	G. Oberto
2	1	01/05/2017	Defect tolerances – minimum ref samples; Reviewed BB and Traceability info. Added Storage Conditions. Reviewed Food Intolerance table, Flow Chart and Amendment table.	G. Oberto
3	1	31/01/2020	3 Year update – general revision	G. Oberto
4	1	31/01/2023	3 Year update – general revision	F. Soares
5	1	31/01/2026	3 Year update – general revision	F. Soares

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