1176-13-196 Cheng Meng\* (cheng319@purdue.edu). Strongly Lech-independent ideals and Lech's conjecture. We introduce the notion of strongly Lech-independent ideals as a generalization of Lech-independent ideals defined by Lech and Hanes, and use this notion to derive inequalities on multiplicities of ideals. In particular we prove that if  $(R, \mathfrak{m}) \rightarrow (S, \mathfrak{n})$  is a flat local extension of local rings such that S is the localization of a standard graded ring over a field at the homogeneous maximal ideal,  $\mathfrak{m}S$  is the localization of a homogeneous ideal and is  $\mathfrak{n}$ -primary, then  $e(R) \leq e(S)$ . (Received January 23, 2022)