

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

LEGAL TEXTS AND PROCEDURES DESCRIBED SHOULD BE FOLLOWED

- ▶ Avoid contamination or changes
- ▶ Sample should represent the lot/target
- ▶ Sample size should be sufficient
- ▶ Increments should be of approximately similar weight
- ▶ Increments should be taken at varying sites in the lot
- ▶ Selecting and mixing many small incremental samples into a composite
- ▶ Each lot to be examined should be sampled separately
- ▶ Sample for microbiological examination should be taken first, and the sample container closed immediately after sampling
- ▶ Read and note the temperature at the sampling location

SAMPLING PERSONNEL

- ▶ Personnel should be skilled and trained.
- ▶ An authorised sampling personnel should carry out 'official' sampling.
- ▶ In monitoring programs, all operators should be given the same training and instructions, in order to obtain comparable samples.

SAMPLING OF SOLIDS, LIQUIDS AND POWDER FROM BULK

- ▶ **Solid:** 'Thieves', probes or augers should be used rather than a shovel.
- ▶ **Liquids:** The material should be thoroughly mixed prior to sampling, by either manual or mechanical means
- ▶ **Powder:** A mechanical method of sampling is strongly recommended.
- ▶ The sample should be taken immediately after mixing, and if possible, while the product is still agitated.

SAMPLING OF ITEMS

- ▶ **Packaged product:** Unopened packages should be sampled to avoid contamination. Minimum weight is 100g.
- ▶ **Non-pre packaged product:** Place the samples in an appropriate container. Minimum weight is 200g.

NUMBER OF SAMPLES TAKEN

The number of items/increments to be sampled is determined by:

- ▶ the aim of the sampling
- ▶ the accepted confidence interval and acceptable uncertainty
- ▶ the characteristics (homogeneity) of the lot
- ▶ the characteristics (health-damaging, distribution) of the analyte
- ▶ budget



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