PRO: Sampling

Sampling

5.7.1

In sampling, a portion of a homogeneous item is selected for analysis under the premise that the reported result(s) of analysis for the selected sample is representative of the entire item.

Procedures involving sampling must contain a sampling plan detailing how, if necessary, items are homogenized and how or how much of a sample is removed for testing.

The laboratory should ensure that analyst training programs cover this aspect of their work.

Definition

"Sampling" is defined as "taking a part of a substance, material or product for testing in order to reach a conclusion, make an inference about, and report on the whole. Sampling should only be used when there is a reasonable assumption of homogeneity of the whole."(1)

Application

Refer to quantitative procedures and sampling guidelines in the *Blood Alcohol*, and *Toxicology* technical procedures manuals.

Deviations from sampling plans

5.7.2

Any deviations, additions, or exclusions from the sampling plans must be recorded in the case record.

Sampling records

5.7.3

If a technical procedures manual contains multiple sampling plans, the sampling plan used for the examination of physical evidence must be noted in the case record.

1. "ASCLD/LAB Policy on Sampling, Sampling Plans and Sample Selection in the Drug Chemistry Discipline," AL-PD-1016-Ver 2.0, Oct 11, 2011