

PRO: Sample Selection

Sample selection

Sample selection involves determining how many items and how much of each item are examined or tested. No assumption of homogeneity is made and no conclusion as to the composition of the whole is reported.

The experience and competence of the examiner is of primary importance in the selection of which evidence or parts thereof are to be examined.

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

Definition

“Sample selection” is defined as “A practice of selecting items to test, or portions of items to test, based on training, experience and competence. In sample selection, there is no assumption about homogeneity.”⁽¹⁾

Application

The concept of sample selection is typically applied to the disciplines and categories of testing in the Criminalistics and Biology Units and in the qualitative testing procedures in the Chemistry and Toxicology Units.

Specifically, refer to *CH: Sample Selection and Testing Guidelines* for sample selection criteria in Drug Chemistry cases.

Deviations from sample selection procedures

Any deviations, additions, or exclusions from the sample selection procedures must be recorded in the case record.

Sample selection records

If a technical procedures manual contains multiple sample selection procedures, the procedure 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-1018-Ver 2.0, Oct 11, 2011