

PRO: Sampling

Sampling

7.3.1

7.3.2.a

7.3.2.b

7.3.2.c

7.3.2.1.a-e AR

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, how or how much of a sample is removed for testing, and instructions regarding the course of action when items demonstrate a lack of homogeneity.

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.”

Application

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

Deviations from sampling plans

7.3.3.h

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

Sampling records

7.3.3.a-g

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. Where relevant, the following information is also recorded:

- the date and time of sampling
 - data identifying and describing the sample
 - identification of the equipment used
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