

Het Comité Sampling Protocol

1. Definitions:

For the purpose of this document, the following definitions shall apply:

'lot': an identifiable quantity of a food commodity delivered at one time and determined to have common characteristics, such as origin, variety, type of packing, packer, consignor, or markings,;

'sublot': designated part of a large lot in order to apply the sampling method to that designated part; each sublot must be physically separate and identifiable;

'incremental sample': a quantity of product taken from a single place in the lot or sublot;

'aggregate sample': the combined total of all the incremental samples taken from the lot or sublot; aggregate samples shall be considered as representative of the lots or sublots from which they are taken;

'laboratory sample': a sample intended for the laboratory.

2. General provisions:

Incremental samples

As far as possible incremental samples shall be taken at various places distributed throughout the lot or sublot.

Preparation of the aggregate sample

The aggregate sample shall be made up by uniting the incremental samples.

Packaging and transmission of samples

Each sample shall be placed in a clean, inert container offering adequate protection from contamination and against damage in transit. All necessary precautions shall be taken to avoid any change in composition of the sample, which might arise during transit or storage.

Sealing and labelling of aggregate samples

Each aggregate sample for official use shall be sealed and identified at the place of sampling.

3. Sampling different types of lots

Food commodities may be traded in bulk, containers, or individual packings, such as sacks, bags, retail packings, and so on. The sampling procedure may be applied to all the different forms in which the commodities are put on the market.

3.1 Packaged commodities

Without prejudice to the specific provisions set out in other parts of this document, the following formula may be used as a guide for the sampling of lots traded in individual packs (such as sacks, bags, retail packings, and so on):

Sampling frequency (SF) $n = \sqrt{\text{number of packages}}$

— sampling frequency (SF): every *n*th sack or bag from which an incremental sample must be taken (decimal figures should be rounded to the nearest whole number).

The incremental sample shall be at least 25 grams, unless otherwise specified in this document. The aggregate sample shall be at least 500 grams, unless otherwise specified in this document.

3.2 General survey of the method of sampling for bulk products

Without prejudice to the specific provisions set out in other parts of this document, the following table may be used as a guide for the sampling of lots traded in bulk:

<i>Subdivision of lots into sublots depending on product and lot weight</i>				
<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Lot weight (tonnes)</u>	<u>Weight or number of sublots</u>	<u>No. of incremental samples</u>	<u>Aggregate sample weight (kg)</u>
<u>Bulk products</u>	≥ 1500	500 tonnes	25	At least 5 kg
	>300 and <1500	Maximum 500 tonnes	25	At least 5 kg
	≥ 50 and ≤ 300	Maximum 100 tonnes	25	At least 5 kg
	< 50	Maximum 50 tonnes	5	At least 2 kg