

Australian Standard[®]

Sampling from coal seams

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Australian Institute of Energy
Australian Mining Industry Council
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Australian Coal Association
Australian Coal Industry Research Laboratories
Australian Coal Preparation Society
Bureau of Steel Manufacturers of Australia
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STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

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OF

AS 2617—1996

Sampling from coal seams

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee on Coal and Coke, as a revision of AS 2617—1983, *Guide for the taking of samples from hard coal seams in situ*.

The objective of this Standard is to provide uniformity and best practices in procedures used for taking coal samples from seams in the ground.

Major changes from the previous edition are as follows:

- (a) The inclusion of sampling from small-diameter and large-diameter drill holes.
- (b) The inclusion of sampling from exposed seam faces.
- (c) The inclusion of trial open-cut slots.
- (d) Deletion of the appendix titled 'Determination of seam thickness'.

The term 'informative' has been used in this Standard to define the application of the Appendix to which it applies. An informative appendix is for guidance and information only.

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FOREWORD

A coal seam may consist of a single stratum of one lithotype of relatively uniform maceral constitution, or it may consist of a number of layers of different coal lithotypes varying in thickness and lateral extent. The seam may also contain discrete layers of inorganic sediments, or carbonaceous shales of varying thickness. Veins of concordant or discordant secondary mineral matter, or intrusive volcanic rock may also be present. The lithotype layers may vary considerably in hardness, texture and structure according to the nature of the coal and inorganic sediments. The inorganic layers may also thicken laterally, splitting the seam into two or more separate entities. Thus, it is not always possible to obtain samples of a full seam or seam section at one sampling point. Where significant variation in seam thickness, lithotype profile and structure occurs and a representative sample is required, several samples may have to be taken.

Methods of sampling for the assessment of physical, chemical, petrographic or utilization properties are described for the following:

- (a) Sampling from small and large diameter drill cores.
- (b) Sampling from exposed seam faces.
- (c) Sampling from trial open-cut excavations.
- (d) Sampling from underground workings.

In a seam of variable quality, it will be necessary to take a number of samples to improve the representativeness of sampling.

In operating mines, the manager should be consulted and approval should be obtained before sampling sites are selected and sampling proceeds. In the case of exploration tenements, it is often necessary to obtain permission from the State Government department that issued the tenement before a bulk sample can be extracted. In most cases, the tenement document defines what constitutes a bulk sample, usually in terms of total mass of coal involved, whereas in other cases it is left to the discretion of the department. In all sampling situations, experienced and qualified personnel will be required for supervision and to ensure that accurate records are made of location, thickness and lithotype descriptions and that all safety precautions have been addressed. It is strongly recommended that a risk analysis of the sampling exercise be undertaken by an experienced safety officer before work begins.