

Customer information

Taking solid samples for declaration

Correctly performed sampling is a basic requirement for high-quality analysis results. There are a few points to consider if you, the customer, take solid or water samples by yourself. In particular, the samples must be preserved parameter-specifically so that the analysis data reflects the condition of the sample at the time of sampling.

To familiarise you with the way we process samples, we compiled all the necessary information on sampling, preservation and transport of solid samples in this article for you.

We would like to assist to a smooth interaction between you as a customer taking samples, and us as testing laboratory. If you have any questions on the subject of taking and preserving solid samples, please do not hesitate to contact your customer advisor at any time.

Legal issues

In the “legally regulated area” there may be restrictive requirements that must be observed. Test results from samples that have not been taken by accredited bodies cannot be used for official purposes and cannot be legally substantiated. We therefore recommend that you, if necessary before taking the sample, check with your customer advisor that the planned procedure corresponds to the objective of the analysis.

Sample containers

We will be pleased to provide you with appropriate, ready-made sample vessels. For each delivery of WESSLING containers, you will receive a list of the vessels contained, the preservatives used and other special features for sampling.

If you use your own vessels, we cannot assume any responsibility that they are blank value-free or otherwise suitable. Never use commercially available beverage bottles or other food containers, as our laboratories will not accept these. Please ensure that the sample containers are clearly and comprehensibly labelled.

Samples that are ordered from us for declaration analysis must be delivered as follows due to normative requirements:

DepV / LAGA Soil:

1 bucket (5l) + 1 amber glass + 1 headspace glass* coated with blank value-free methanol.

LAGA construction waste or country-specific regulations such as Dihlmann Decree, guidelines for backfilling pits, quarries or opencast mines as well as track ballast testing:

1 bucket (5l or 10l) + 1 amber glass*

*Depending on the maximum grain size, this vessel may be omitted if the maximum grain size is large.

Sample preservation and stabilisation

For the analysis and preservation of solid samples for volatile organic substances, it should be noted that the parameter-specific analytical sample in the headspace glass must be immediately coated with blank value-free methanol for stabilisation. The headspace glass may be filled up to the half-way mark with sample material (approx. 25g). Avoid losses of methanol due to spillage or evaporation. The glass edge is then cleaned with a cloth and the sample vessel is tightly closed.

Safety notice

Please observe the necessary occupational safety measures when handling the hazardous substance methanol.

Breathability (AT 4) and gas formation potential (GB 21) studies must either be started within 48 hours of sampling or a sub-sample must be frozen to analysis within 24 hours to preclude re-sampling. On request, we can freeze a partial sample for a fee for 6 weeks.

Extraction and transport

Samples for declaration analysis must normally be taken by trained personnel in accordance with the relevant guidelines (LAGA PN98). Please note our training offer for this.

The samples must be delivered to the laboratory, as quickly as possible, in an upright position and in a cool, dark and shatter-proof package.

Safety notice

If you are aware that samples are heavily contaminated, please note a clearly visible notice on the order form or samples so that our employees can take additional occupational safety measures if necessary. Please pack such samples separately to avoid possible cross-contamination.

Test reports

According to the requirements of DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025, in the absence of a parameter-specific analysis sample, WESSLING must include the following disclaimer in the test report:

A parameter-specific analysis sample for the determination of volatile organic substances, i.e. a sample coated with blank value-free methanol, has not been supplied. Minor findings of the aforementioned substances cannot be excluded. In addition, it should be noted that it may not be possible to take an analysis sample based on the granularity of the material to be sampled.

This disclaimer is omitted if the taking of a sample of volatile pollutants is not possible **and** reasonable due to the grain size. This is indicated in writing when the order is placed.

If you should have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact the team of WESSLING.