



Designation: ~~D7430/D7430M – 21~~ D7430/D7430M – 22

Standard Practice for Mechanical Sampling of Coal¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D7430/D7430M; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reappraisal. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reappraisal.

INTRODUCTION

Analysis data obtained from coal samples are used in establishing price, controlling mine and cleaning plant operations, allocating production costs, and determining plant or component efficiency. The task of obtaining a sample of reasonable mass to represent an entire lot presents a number of problems and emphasizes the necessity for using standard sampling procedures.

Coal is one of the most difficult of materials to sample, varying in composition from noncombustible particles to those which can be burned completely, with all gradations in between. The task is further complicated by the use of the analytical results, the sampling equipment available, the quantity to be represented by the sample, and the degree of precision required.

This practice gives the overall requirements for the collection and within-system preparation of coal samples through the use of mechanical sampling systems utilizing falling-stream, cross-belt, and auger designs. This practice also gives the overall requirements for the bias testing and quality management of mechanical coal sampling systems. The wide varieties of coal-handling facilities preclude the publication of detailed procedures for every sampling situation. The proper collection of the sample involves an understanding and consideration of the physical character of the coal, the number and mass of increments, and the overall precision required.

1. Scope

[ASTM D7430/D7430M-22](https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/2ac45b1c-faff-4ff4-b45e-5baecb85c49b/astm-d7430-d7430m-22)

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1.1 This practice is divided into four parts: A, B, C, and D. These four parts represent the previous Practices **D7256/D7256M**, **D4916**, **D4702**, and **D6518**. These four standards are the four that govern the mechanical sampling of coal and have been combined into one document for the ease of reference of the users of these standards.

1.2 The scope of Part A can be found in Section **4**.

1.3 The scope of Part B can be found in Section **13**.

1.4 The scope of Part C can be found in Section **19**.

1.5 The scope of Part D can be found in Section **32**.

1.6 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.* For specific hazard statements, see Sections **7**, **16**, **21**, **35**, and **38.1.1**.

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee **D05** on Coal and Coke and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee **D05.23** on Sampling. Current edition approved ~~June 1, 2021~~ Nov. 1, 2022. Published ~~July 2021~~ December 2022. Originally approved in 2008. Last previous edition approved in ~~2020~~ 2021 as ~~D7430/D7430M – 20~~ D7430/D7430M – 21. DOI: ~~10.1520/D7430-D7430M-21~~ 10.1520/D7430_D7430M-22.

1.7 This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

D121 Terminology of Coal and Coke

D2013/D2013M Practice for Preparing Coal Samples for Analysis

D2234/D2234M Practice for Collection of a Gross Sample of Coal

D3302 Test Method for Total Moisture in Coal

D4621 Guide for Quality Management in an Organization That Samples or Tests Coal and Coke (Withdrawn 2010)³

D4702 Practice for Quality Management of Mechanical Coal Sampling Systems (Withdrawn 2008)³

D4749 Test Method for Performing the Sieve Analysis of Coal and Designating Coal Size

D4916 Practice for Mechanical Auger Sampling (Withdrawn 2008)³

D6518 Practice for Bias Testing a Mechanical Coal Sampling System (Withdrawn 2008)³

D7256/D7256M Practice for Mechanical Collection and Within-System Preparation of a Gross Sample of Coal from Moving Streams (Withdrawn 2008)³

E105 Guide for Probability Sampling of Materials

E122 Practice for Calculating Sample Size to Estimate, With Specified Precision, the Average for a Characteristic of a Lot or Process

E177 Practice for Use of the Terms Precision and Bias in ASTM Test Methods

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—Definitions applicable to this practice are listed in Terminology D121.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *accuracy, n*—(1) *generally, generally*, a term used to indicate the reliability of a sample, a measurement, or an observation; (2) *specifically*, a measure of closeness of agreement between an experimental result and the true value.

3.2.1.1 *Discussion*—

An example is the observed and true sulfur content of a coal consignment. This measurement is affected by random errors as well as by bias.

3.2.2 *activation interval, n*—for a falling-stream or cross-belt cutter, the time from the beginning of movement for taking an increment, to the beginning of movement for taking of the next increment.

3.2.3 *auger increment, n*—the retained portion of one extraction operation of the auger.

3.2.4 *auger sampler, n*—a mechanical device that extracts a columnar sample of coal from a railcar, truck, barge, or stockpile and any associated sub-system or within-system components.

3.2.5 *bias, n*—the difference between the population mean of the mechanical sampler test results and the accepted reference value.

3.2.6 *confidence interval, n*—a numeric interval with a lower limit and a higher limit within which the true parameter value is estimated to fall; the confidence interval percentage indicates the percentage of time the true value will fall within the interval if the procedure is continuously repeated.

3.2.7 *consignment, n*—a discrete amount of coal, such as a shipment, a car load, a unit train, or a day's production.

3.2.7.1 *Discussion*—

A consignment may include more than one lot of coal and may correspond to a specific period of time, such as a sampling period or a billing period.

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

3.2.8 *correlation, n*—a measure of the linear dependence between paired system and reference measurements.

3.2.8.1 *Discussion*—

Correlation frequently is expressed by the correlation coefficient, which can take a value from minus one (perfect negative linear relationship) to plus one (perfect positive linear relationship).

3.2.9 *cross-belt sampler, n*—a single sampling machine or component of a mechanical sampling system designed to extract an increment directly from a conveyor belt surface by sweeping a sampling device (cutter) through the material on the conveyor.

3.2.10 *delimitation error, n*—a material error that occurs when all the elements in a cross section of a coal stream do not have an equal probability of being intercepted (captured) by the sampler cutter during increment collection.

3.2.11 *ellipsoidal region, n*—an area that is formed by plane sections of ellipses that are defined by the values selected for the largest tolerable bias of each coal characteristic used in the bias test; the region will be used to determine if the system is biased.

3.2.12 *falling-stream sampler, n*—a single sampling machine or component of a mechanical sampling system designed to extract an increment from a falling stream of coal at the discharge end of a conveyor or chute by moving a sampling device (cutter) through the falling stream of material.

3.2.13 *Hotelling's Squared T (T^2) test, n*—a statistical test that is used to evaluate multivariate data; it is the multivariate equivalent of the Student's *t*-test.

3.2.14 *largest tolerable bias (LTB), n*—an interval whose upper and lower bounds represent the limits of an acceptable bias.

3.2.15 *mechanical sampling system, n*—a single machine or series of interconnected machines whose purpose is to extract mechanically, or process (divide and reduce), or a combination thereof, a sample of coal.

3.2.16 *paired data set, n*—system and reference values observed on samples collected and compared from the same batch of material.

3.2.17 *precision, n*—a term used to indicate the capability of a person, an instrument, or a method to obtain reproducible results; specifically, a measure of the random error as expressed by the variance, standard error, or a multiple of the standard error (see Practice [E177](#)).

3.2.18 *reference sample, n*—a sample used in testing of a mechanical sampling system which is comprised of one or more increments collected from the test batch or lot of coal by the stopped belt method as described in Practice [D2234/D2234M](#).

3.2.19 *reject stream, n*—the coal flow within a mechanical sampling system, which occurs at each stage of division, before and after reduction, and is not included in the system sample.

3.2.20 *sampling ratio, n*—the mass of the system sample divided by the mass of the corresponding coal sampled.

3.2.21 *save stream, n*—the coal flow within a mechanical sampling system which occurs at each stage of division, before and after reduction, and after the final stage of division becomes the system sample.

3.2.22 *statistical independence, n*—two sample values are statistically independent if the occurrence of either one in no way affects the probability assigned to the occurrence of the other.

3.2.23 *surrogate sample, n*—a sample, used in the evaluation of a mechanical sampling system, which is comprised of one or more increments collected from a coal stream within the mechanical sampling system in accordance with Practice [D2234/D2234M](#), Conditions “A” or “B.”

3.2.23.1 *Discussion*—

Such a sample may be considered acceptable for evaluation of a mechanical sampling system's components, excluding the primary cutter, when demonstrated to be equivalent to the reference sample.

3.2.24 *system sample, n*—a sample collected from a test batch or lot of coal by the final stage of a mechanical sampling system.

3.2.25 *unbiased sample (representative sample), n*—a sample free of bias.

3.2.26 *Walsh averages, n*—given a series of observations (differences) x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n , the $n(n + 1)/2$ pair-wise averages given by:

$$(x_i + x_j)/2, 1 \leq i \leq j \leq n \quad (1)$$

3.2.26.1 *Discussion*—

As an example of Walsh averages, assume one has three observations (differences) designated as x_1, x_2 , and x_3 . There are then a total of $3(4)/2 = 6$ Walsh averages. They are as follows: $x_1, x_2, x_3, (x_1 + x_2)/2, (x_1 + x_3)/2$, and $(x_2 + x_3)/2$.

3.2.27 *Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test, n*—a non-parametric statistical procedure for calculating the point estimate and confidence interval for a sample drawn from a population with symmetric distribution.

3.2.28 *within-system preparation, n*—the process of gross sample preparation carried out mechanically by sequential crushing (reduction) equipment or division equipment, or both.

3.2.28.1 *Discussion*—

It may be carried out by processing increments individually or by batching increments together and processing them together as a group. In any case, within-system preparation is conducted in a manner to minimize moisture changes and without removing the gross sample or its increments from the sampling system.

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PART A – MECHANICAL COLLECTION AND WITHIN-SYSTEM PREPARATION OF A GROSS SAMPLE OF COAL FROM MOVING STREAMS
[Old Practice D7256/D7256M]

4. Scope

4.1 *Part A—Mechanical Collection and Within-System Preparation of a Gross Sample of Coal from Moving Streams*—Covers procedures for the mechanical collection of a sample under Classification I-B-1 and I-B-2 (Practice D2234/D2234M) and the within-system preparation (reduction and division) of gross samples utilizing various components of the mechanical sampling system.

4.1.1 Part A describes mechanical sampling procedures for coals (1) by size and condition of preparation (for example, mechanically cleaned coal or raw coal), and (2) by sampling characteristics.

4.1.2 *Units*—The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. The values stated in each system are not necessarily exact equivalents; therefore, to ensure conformance with the standard, each system shall be used independently of the other, and values from the two systems shall not be combined.

4.1.3 In this practice, the term “mass” applies to measurements expressed with both SI units (for example, kg) and inch-pound units (for example, lb).

5. Summary of Practices

5.1 The general-purpose sampling procedures are intended to provide, in 19 of 20 cases, dry ash results that are within an interval of $\pm 1/10$ of the average dry ash results that would be obtained in hypothetical repeated sampling.

5.2 Special-purpose sampling procedures apply to the sampling of coal when other precision limits are required, or when other constituents are used to specify precision, or for performance tests.

5.3 For coals of known size and condition of preparation, a table (Table 1) is given for the determination of the number and mass of increments required for a gross sample for both general- and special-purpose sampling.

5.4 The only processes of sample division and reduction covered in this document are the use of mechanical sample dividers for the division of the sample and mechanical crushing equipment for the reduction of the sample, both of which are within-system components of the mechanical sampling system.

5.5 The procedures appear in the following order:

Test Method
 Sampling of Coals Based on Size and Condition
 of Preparation

Section
 10.1

TABLE 1 Number and Mass of Increments for General-Purpose Sampling Procedure^A

Top Size	16 mm [0.625 in.]	50 mm [2 in.]	150 mm [6 in.] ^B
Mechanically Cleaned Coal ^C			
Minimum number of increments	15	15	15
Minimum mass of increments, kg [lb]	1 [2]	3 [6]	7 [15]
Raw (Uncleaned Coal) ^C			
Minimum number of increments	35	35	35
Minimum mass of increments, kg [lb]	1 [2]	3 [6]	7 [15]

^A Conditions C and D are not addressed in this practice.

^B For coals above 150 mm [6 in.] top size, the sampling procedure should be mutually agreed upon in advance by all parties concerned.

^C See 9.2.2.



Test Method	Section
General-Purpose Sampling Procedure	10.1.1
Number and Mass of Increments	10.1.1.2
Number of Gross Samples	10.1.1.4
Special-Purpose Sampling	10.1.2
Number and Mass of Increments	10.1.2.2
Number of Gross Samples	10.1.2.3
Division of the Gross Sample Before Crushing	10.2
Reduction and Division	10.3

6. Significance and Use

6.1 It is intended that this practice be used to provide a sample representative of the coal from which it is collected. Because of the variability of coal and the wide variety of mechanical sampling equipment available, caution should be used in all stages of the sample collection process, the design of sampling system specifications, the equipment procurement, and the acceptance testing of installed equipment.

6.2 After removal from the sampling system and further preparation (Practice [D2013/D2013M](#)), the sample may be analyzed for a number of different parameters. These parameters may define the lot's value, its ability to meet specifications, its environmental impact, as well as other properties.

7. Hazards

7.1 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

7.2 **Warning**—The operation, inspection, maintenance, and cleaning of mechanical sampling equipment involves hazardous operations, conditions, and equipment that may result in serious bodily harm or death. These hazards include, but are not limited to, intermittent operation, remote startup, powerful electrical or hydraulic drives, moving conveyors, crushers, etc.

7.3 It is essential that personnel wear all required personal protective equipment. Personnel should be fully knowledgeable of, and follow, all site-specific safety rules and governmental regulations regarding the equipment in question, including, but not limited to, releasing stored energy, confined spaces, opening of inspection doors during operation, and electrical power lock out/tag out. Be certain to de-energize main power source and not rely on local or control circuits.

8. Increment Collection Classification

8.1 The type of selection, the conditions under which individual increments are collected, and the method of spacing of increments from the coal consignment or lot are classified according to the following descriptions and Table 1 in Practice [D2234/D2234M](#).

8.2 *Types of Increments*—The only type of selection of increments covered by this document is Type I where there is no human discretion in the selection of the pieces of coal or portions of the coal stream. Type I selection increments generally yield more accurate results than Type II where human discretion is exercised in the selection of specific pieces of coal or of specific portions of the stream, pile, or shipment.

8.3 *Conditions of Increment Collection*—The conditions under which individual increments are collected are the conditions of the main body of coal relative to the portion withdrawn. Only Condition B (Full-Stream Cut), in which a full cross-section cut is removed from a moving stream of coal, is covered by this document.

8.4 *Spacing of Increments*—The spacing of increments pertains to the kind of intervals between increments. Two spacing methods are recognized: systematic and random. Systematic spacing is usually preferable.

8.4.1 *Systematic Spacing 1*, in which the movements of individual increment collection are spaced evenly in time or in position over the lot. This practice allows both time-based and mass-based distribution of increments.

8.4.2 *Random Spacing 2*, in which the increments are spaced at random in time or in position over the lot.



9. Organization and Planning of Sampling Operations

9.1 This practice provides definitive procedures for the collection of a gross sample. Parties claiming to use this practice must adhere to the procedures as set out in this practice. If the sampling is not done in accordance with the procedures set out in this practice, then that sample may not be suitable for comparison with a sample collected by the procedures described in this practice. Since it may be impracticable or impossible to take another sample of a given lot of coal, it is essential that parties agree on sampling procedures prior to undertaking sampling.

9.2 *Selection of Appropriate Sampling Procedure*—Variations in coal-handling facilities make it impossible to publish rigid rules covering every sampling situation in complete and exact detail. Proper sampling involves an understanding and proper consideration of the minimum number and mass of increments, the size consist of the coal, the condition of preparation of the coal, the variability of the constituent sought, and the degree of precision required.

9.2.1 *Number and Mass of Increments*—The number and mass of increments required for a given degree of precision depends upon the variability of the coal. This variability increases with an increase in free impurity. A coal high in inherent impurity and with comparatively little free impurity may exhibit much less variability than a coal with a low inherent impurity and a relatively high proportion of free impurity. For most practical purposes, an increase in the ash content of a given coal usually indicates an increase in variability. It is imperative that not less than the minimum specified number of increments of not less than the minimum specified mass be collected from the lot.

9.2.2 *Condition of Preparation*—If there is any doubt as to the condition of preparation of the coal (for example, mechanically cleaned coal or raw coal), the number of increments for raw coal shall apply. For the purpose of application of the minimum number of increments in **Table 1**, mechanically cleaned coal is defined as coal which has been mechanically cleaned by a specific gravity process in all sieve sizes above ~~150 μ m mesh [No. 100]~~ 150 μ m mesh [No. 100 USA] Standard. Similarly, although a coal has been mechanically cleaned, it may still show significant variation. For example, the coal may be a blend of two different portions of one seam or a blend of two different seams. In such cases where significant variation is possible, the number of increments should be as specified for raw (uncleaned) coal.

9.3 *Distribution of Increments*—It is essential that the increments be distributed throughout the lot to be sampled. This distribution is related to the entire volume of the lot, not merely its surface or any linear direction through it or over it. If circumstances prevent the sampler from applying this principle, the lot is sampled only in part, and the gross sample is representative only of this part. The spacing of the increments shall be varied if the possibility exists that increment collection may get “in phase” with the sequence of coal variability. Example: routine sampling of commercial coal from a continuous stream (conveyor belt) in which increment collection is automatic and its sequence coincides with the “highs” or “lows” in the content of fines.

9.3.1 *Independence of Cutter Activation Intervals*—Select cutter activation intervals so that cutters do not activate at a set time in relation to the cutter from a previous stage. In addition, the activation interval for any sampling stage shall not be evenly divisible into the previous stage activation interval.

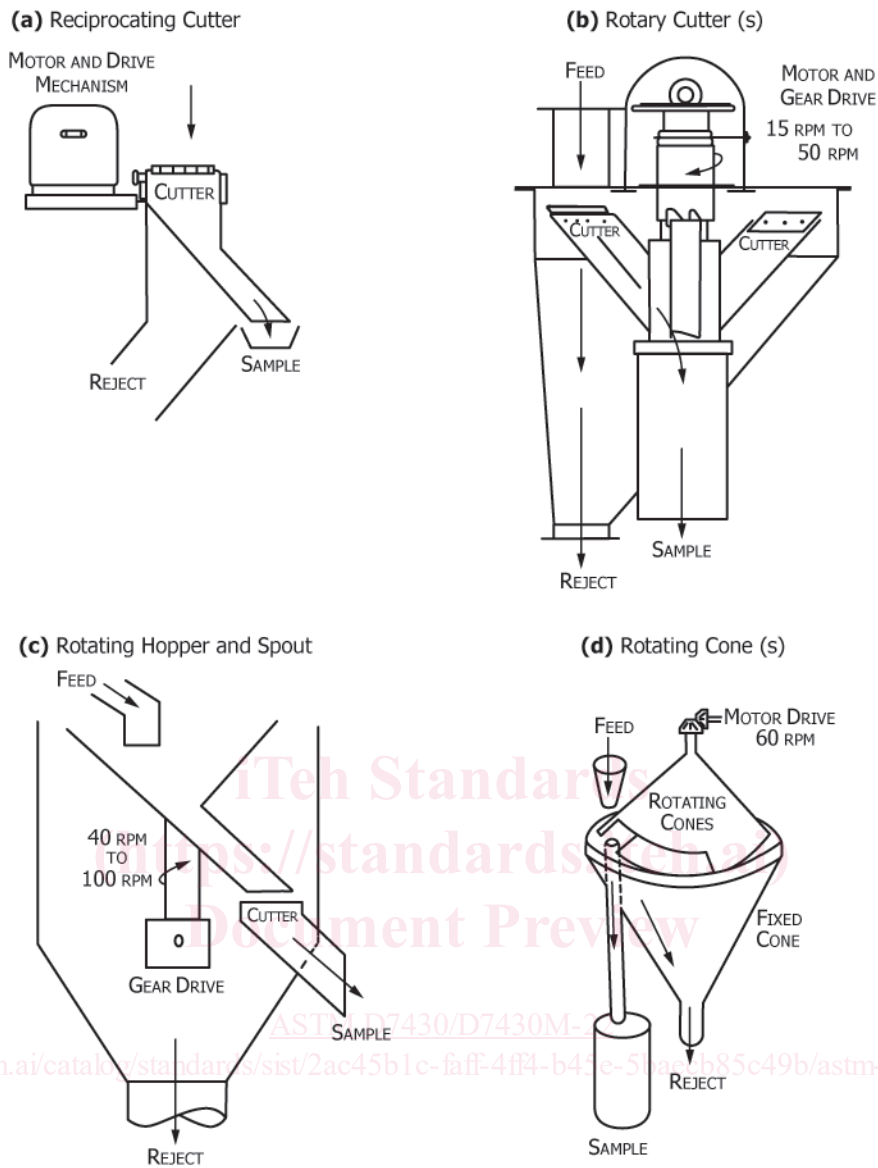
9.4 *Dimensions of Sampling Device*—The opening of the sampling device shall be no less than 3.0 times the nominal top size of the coal but no less than ~~31.8 mm [1.25 in.]~~ 31.8 mm [1.25 in.]

9.4.1 For systems installed prior to December 31, 2013, the opening of the sampling device may be 2.5 times the nominal top size of the coal but no less than ~~31.8 mm [1.25 in.]~~ 31.8 mm [1.25 in.].

9.4.2 The sampling device shall be of sufficient capacity to completely retain or entirely pass the increment without spillage at the maximum rate of coal flow.

9.5 *Characteristics and Movement of Sampling Device*—In sampling from moving streams of coal, the sampling device shall be designed to collect each increment with no selective rejection of material by size and with no contamination by nonsample material.

9.5.1 *Falling-Stream Sampler*—In collecting an increment, the falling-stream cutter moves at a constant velocity through the entire cross section of the stream of coal. The edges of the cutter opening shall be at the same height and parallel along its length. The mass, m , in kg [lb] of material collected in one pass through the stream by a falling-stream cutter, with cutting edges and cutter velocity perpendicular to the stream flow, is calculated from the following equation:



NOTE 1—

(a) *Reciprocating Cutter*—Fig. 15(a) shows a section of a cutter which is moved across a stream of coal. At regular intervals, the cutter movement is reversed and a sample increment is collected on each trip through the coal stream.

(b) *Rotating Cutter*—Fig. 15(b) shows two cutters attached to a hollow, rotating shaft. Each cutter is designed to extract increments from the feed and to discharge these into the hollow shaft. One or more cutters may be used.

(c) *Rotating Hopper and Spout*—Fig. 15(c) shows the totaling hopper that receives the crushed sample and discharges it through a spout over one or more stationary cutters.

(d) *Rotating Cone*—Fig. 15(d) shows a sampler developed by the British National Coal Board. Two slotted cones are locked together and rotated on a vertical shaft so that on each revolution the common slot operating intercepts the falling stream of coal and collects an increment

FIG. 15 Mechanical Sample Dividers

$$m = \frac{Cw}{3.6v_c} \left[m = \frac{Cw}{1.8v_c} \right] \quad (2)$$

where:

- C = stream flow rate in Mg/h [ton/h],
- w = tip-to-tip cutter aperture width in mm [in.], and
- v_c = average cutter speed in mm/s [in./s].

NOTE 1—Falling-stream cutter speeds of 460-460 mm/mm/s [18 in. [18 in./s]/s] or less have been found to produce acceptable results.

NOTE 2—The constant value 3.6 [1.8] in the denominator of Eq 2 converts Mg/h to kg/s [ton/h to lb/s].

NOTE 3—If the falling-stream cutter velocity is not constant as it traverses the material stream, the mass of collected material may not agree with that calculated using Eq 2.

9.5.1.1 An example of a falling-stream sampler is shown in Fig. 21.

9.5.2 *Cross-Belt Sampler*—Design and operate the cross-belt cutter at a velocity across the conveyor surface that is high enough to prevent selective rejection of material by size, prevent contamination of the sample with material not collected within the cutter, and avoid mechanical problems due to damming of conveyed material against the outside of the cutter body as the cutter travels through the stream. Design the hopper or chute that receives the primary increment to include skirting or other barriers to prevent the inclusion of non-sample material that is swept in its direction by the upstream side plate of the primary cutter. Furthermore, ensure by design that a complete increment is extracted, and that the configuration of the conveyor belt fits the arc of travel of the cross-belt cutter closely fits the configuration and prevents deflection of the conveyor belt away from the primary cutter at the point of sample collection. This can be accomplished with belt support devices which shape the conveyor into an arc at the point of sample collection; and a wiper on the tip of the cutter to ensure collection of fine sized material (see Fig. 2 and Fig. 3). The mass, m , in kg [lb], of material collected in one pass through the moving stream by a cutter with cutting edges and cutter velocity perpendicular to the stream flow is calculated from the following equation:

$$m = \frac{Cw}{3.6v_b} \left[m = \frac{Cw}{1.8v_b} \right] \quad (3)$$

where:

- C = stream flow rate in Mg/h [ton/h],
- w = tip-to-tip cutter aperture width in mm [in.], and
- v_b = conveyor belt speed in mm/s [in./s].

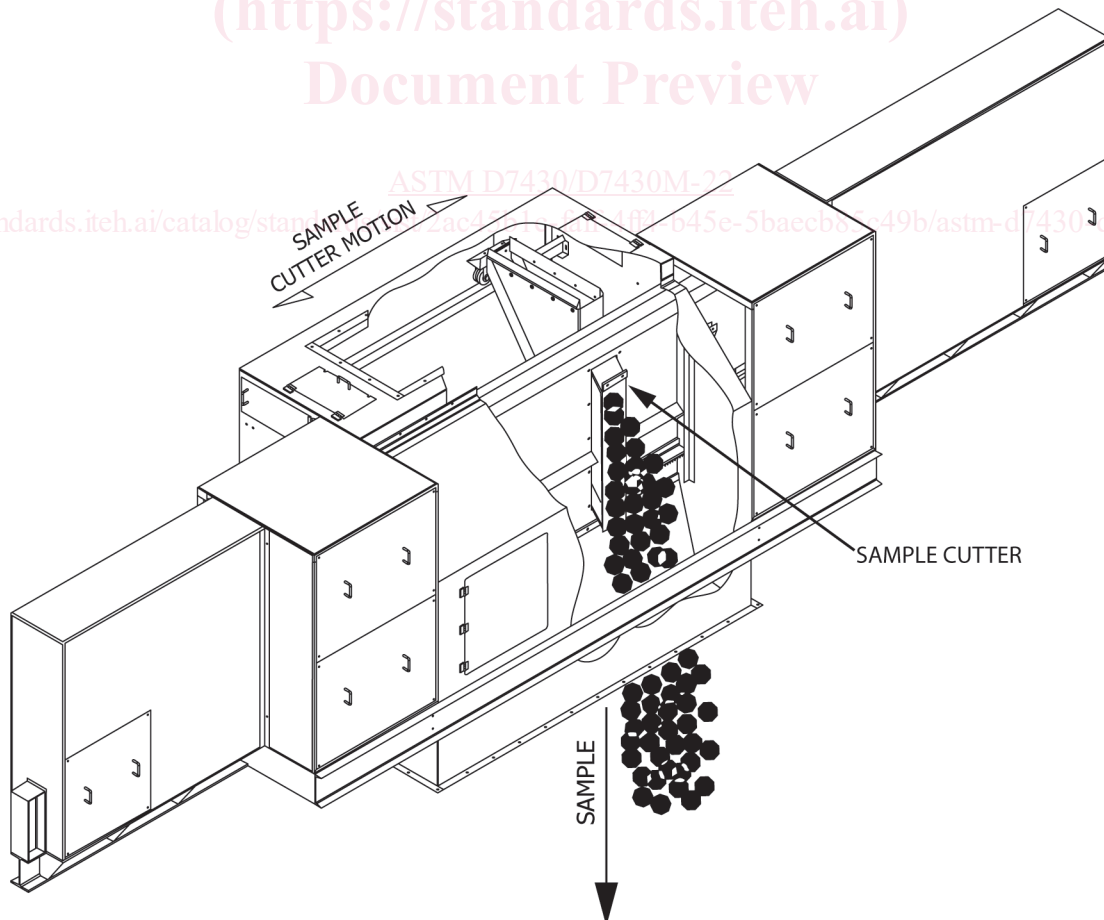


FIG. 21 Falling-Stream Sampler

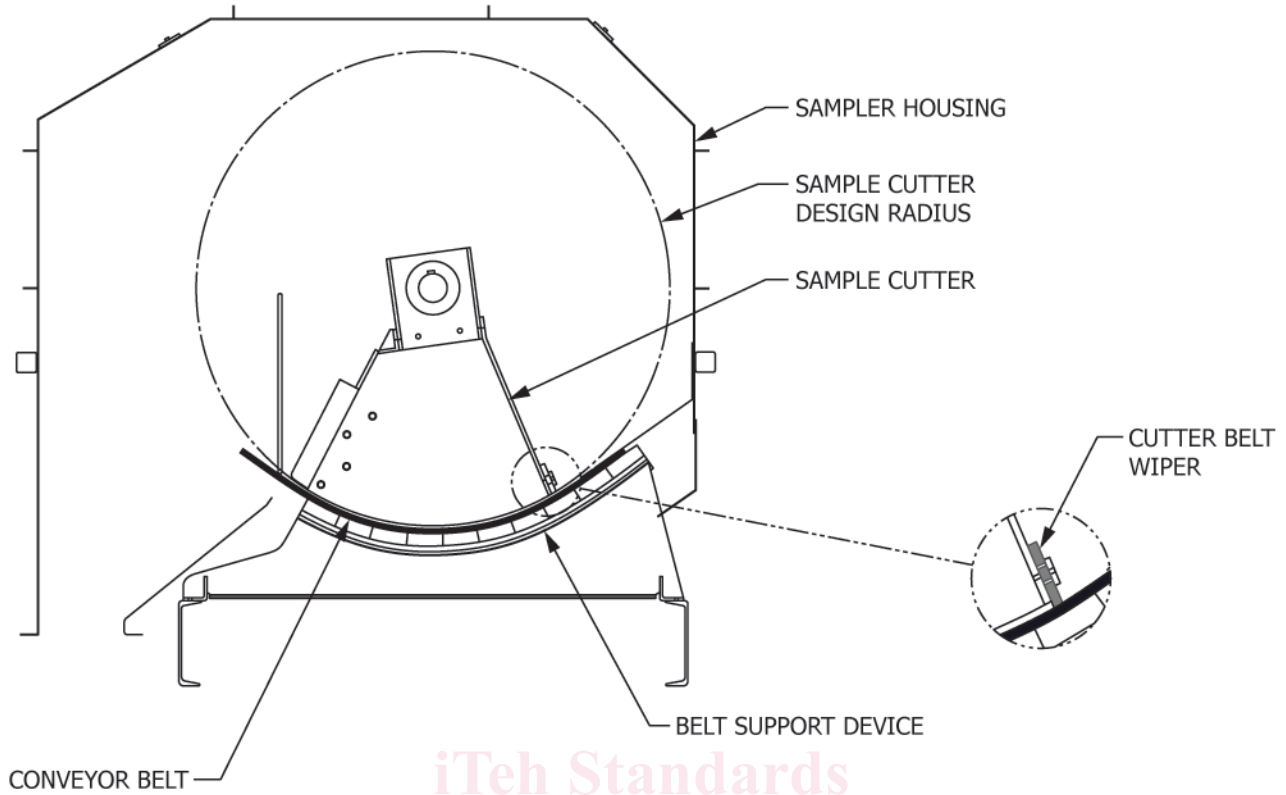


FIG. 2 Cross Belt Sampler With Conveyor Arc Support

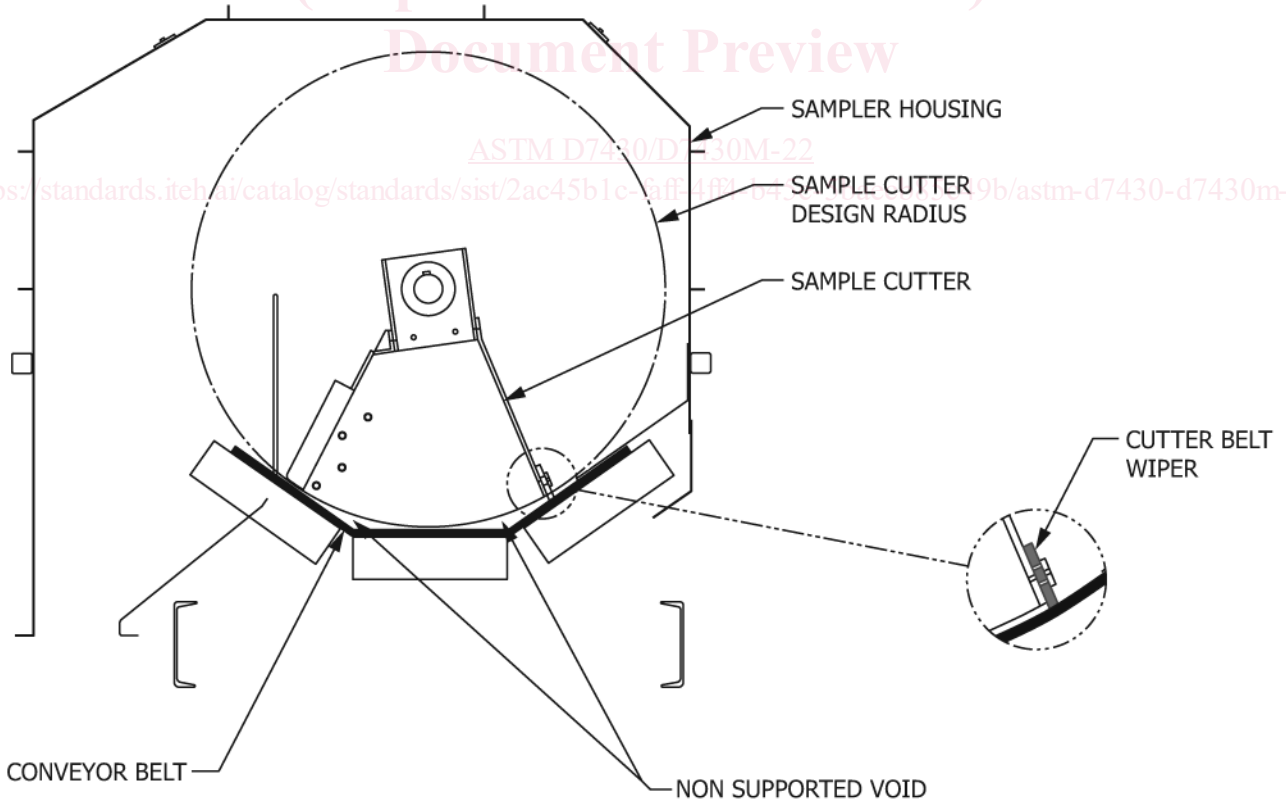


FIG. 3 Cross-belt Sampler Without Conveyor Arc Support

NOTE 4—The constant value 3.6 [1.8] in the denominator of Eq 3 converts Mg/h to kg/s [ton/h to lb/s].

NOTE 5—To avoid mechanical problems and spillage and to ensure correct sample delimitation, the higher ratio of cutter speed to belt speed the better. Ratios of cutter speed to belt speed of 1.5 or greater have been found to produce acceptable results.

9.5.2.1 An example of a cross-belt sampler is shown in Fig. 34.

9.6 There shall be no structural member or other impediment within a cutter body that impedes either sample collection or sample discharge.

9.7 *Preservation of Moisture*—The increments obtained during the sampling period shall be protected from changes in

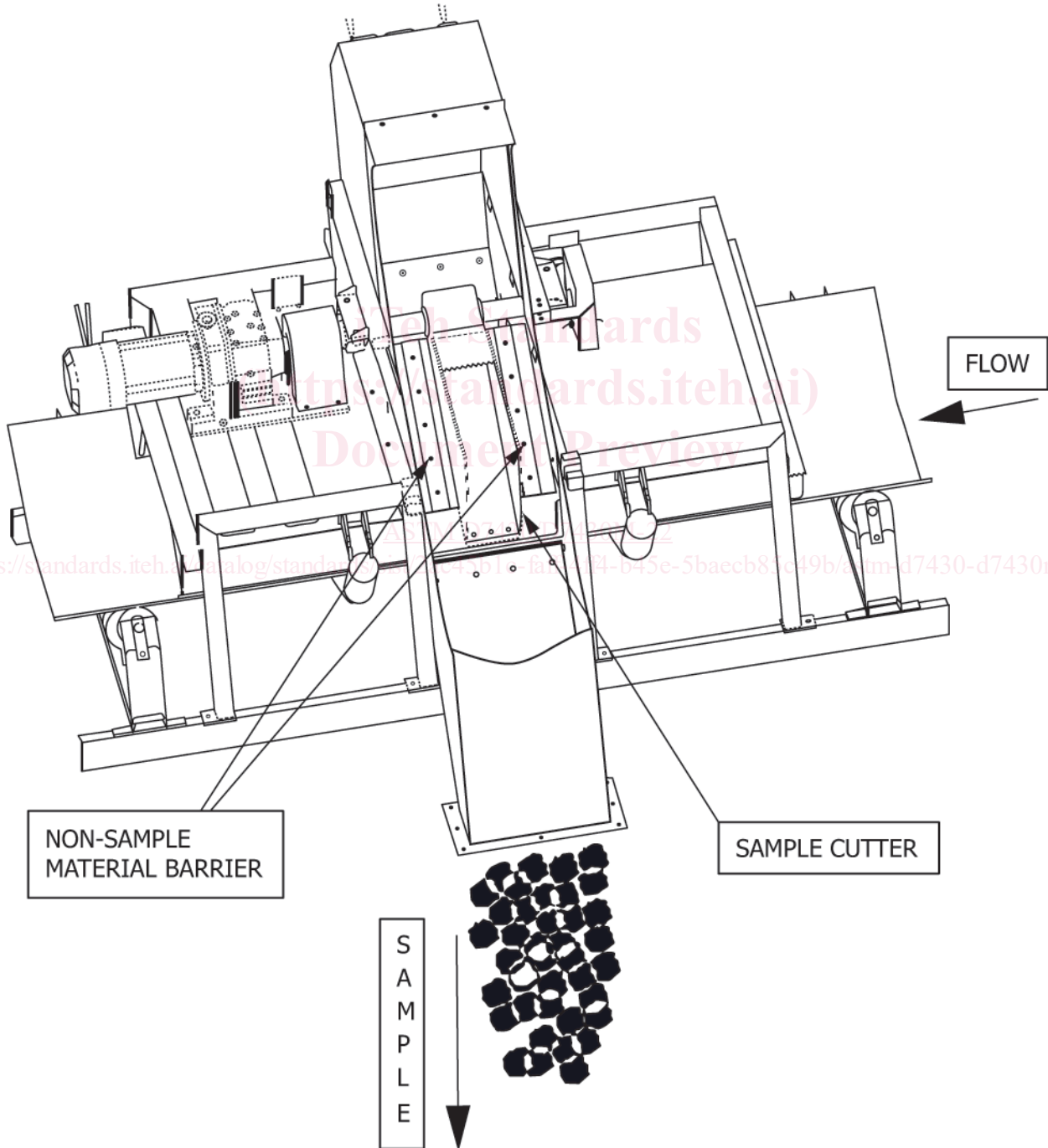


FIG. 34 Cross-Belt Sampler

composition as a result of exposure to rain, snow, wind, sun, contact with absorbent materials, and extremes of temperature. The circulation of air through equipment must be reduced to a minimum to prevent both loss of fines and moisture. Samples in which moisture content is important shall be protected from excessive air flow and then shall be stored in moisture-tight containers. Metal cans with airtight lids, or heavy vapor-impervious bags, properly sealed, are satisfactory for this purpose.

9.8 *Contamination*—The sampling arrangement shall be planned so that contamination of the increments with foreign material or unrelated coal does not create bias of practical consequence.

9.9 *Mechanical System Features*—It is essential that mechanized systems as a whole, including sampling machines, chutes, feed conveyors, crushers and other devices, be self-cleaning and non-clogging and be designed and operated in a manner that will facilitate routine inspection and maintenance.

9.10 *Personnel*—Because of the many variations in the conditions under which coal must be sampled, and in the nature of the material being sampled, it is essential that the samples be collected under the direct supervision of a person qualified by training and experience for this responsibility.

9.11 *Criteria of Satisfactory Performance*—A satisfactory arrangement for mechanical collection and within-system preparation of a gross sample of coal from a moving stream must properly apply the principles of systematic sampling. Use the instructions in Part A to collect increments from the lot being sampled either at random or even intervals in such a manner that the quality and size consist of each part of the lot has an equal probability of being represented in the sample. Use the instructions in Part C to evaluate the mechanical performance of the system as a matter of routine, especially in regards to monitoring sampling ratios and system inspections. Use the instructions in Part D to bias test the system using prescribed procedures and methods.

9.12 *Relative Location of Sampling and Weighing*—It is preferable that coal be weighed and sampled at the same time. If there is a lapse in time between these two events, consideration should be given by both the purchaser and the seller to changes in moisture during this interval and the consequent shift in relationship of moisture to the true quality of the coal at the instant when ownership of the coal transfers from one to the other.

10. Procedures

10.1 *Sampling of Coals Based on Size and Condition of Preparation:*

10.1.1 *General-Purpose Sampling:*

10.1.1.1 Where probability sampling is employed, the general-purpose sampling procedures are intended to provide, in 19 of 20 cases, dry ash results that are within the interval of $\pm 1/10$ of the average dry ash results that would be obtained in hypothetical repeated sampling.

10.1.1.2 *Number and Mass of Increments*—Obtain the number and mass of increments as specified in **Table 1**, except as provided in **10.1.1.5(2)**. Determine the minimum number of increments from the condition of preparation, and determine the minimum mass of each increment from the top size of the coal. Classify the coals to be sampled according to the general purpose procedure into three groups by top size. Further classify each of these groups into two subgroups in accordance with the condition of preparation. These classifications are shown in **Table 1**.

10.1.1.3 Variations in construction of the sampling device and flow, structure, or size consist of the coal may make it impracticable to collect increments as small as the minimum mass specified in **Table 1**. In such cases, collect an increment of greater mass. However, do not reduce the minimum number of increments, regardless of large excesses of individual increment masses. **Table 1** lists the absolute minimum number of increments for general-purpose sampling which may not be reduced, except as specified in **10.1.1.5(2)**. Other considerations may make it advisable or necessary to increase this number of increments.

10.1.1.4 *Number of Gross Samples*—Under the general-purpose sampling procedure, for quantities up to approximately ~~1000 Mg~~ ~~[1000 tons]~~, 1000 Mg [1000 tons], it is recommended that one gross sample represent the lot. Take this gross sample in accordance with the requirements prescribed in **Table 1**.

10.1.1.5 For quantities over ~~1000 Mg~~ ~~[1000 tons]~~, 1000 Mg [1000 tons], use any of the following alternatives:

(1) Take one gross sample for the lot and analyze it to represent the quality of the lot. Collect the number of increments N calculated from **Eq 4**:

$$N = K \sqrt{\frac{L}{1000}} \quad (4)$$

where:

L = number of Mg [tons], and

K = 15.7 [15] for mechanically cleaned coal or 36.7 [35] for raw coal.

(2) Divide the lot into sub-lots and take a separate gross sample from each sub-lot. Use Eq 4 to determine the minimum number of increments for each sub-lot, with L being the sub-lot quantity. Mass-average the analyses of the sub-lot samples to represent the quality of the original lot.

10.1.1.6 The maximum lot size shall be chosen by mutual agreement between the seller and the buyer of the coal, with each party taking into account the risks associated with the choice. Potential consequences include:

(1) Large samples requiring excessive off-line preparation steps can result in sampling moisture losses.

(2) No quality information is obtained on within-lot variability. Lot sizes generally should not exceed quantities for which critical quality levels apply in use of the coal.

(3) When a given quantity of coal that might be represented by a single lot is divided into multiple sub-lots, the imprecision of the reported quality for that given quantity is reduced. For a given quantity, the component of imprecision due to sample preparation and analysis is reduced by $1/\sqrt{n}$, where n is the number of sub-lots.

10.1.2 *Special-Purpose Sampling:*

10.1.2.1 This special-purpose sampling procedure shall apply to the sampling of coal when increased precision is required, and the only knowledge of the coal is its top size and conditions of preparation.

10.1.2.2 *Number and Mass of Increments*—Take the same number and mass of increments per gross sample as specified in Table 1, or as specified in 10.1.1.5(2).

10.1.2.3 *Number of Gross Samples*—To obtain increased precision for the final result for a given consignment, increase the number of gross samples collected from that consignment and analyze each gross sample separately, reporting the average of results. To reduce errors to one half, that is, to “double” the precision, take four times as many gross samples. Similarly, to reduce errors to one third, to “triple” the precision, take nine times as many gross samples.

10.1.3 *Sampling for Total Moisture Only:*

10.1.3.1 The increments as established in Table 1 for mechanically cleaned coal are deemed adequate for general purpose sampling for total moisture.

10.2 *Division of the Gross Sample Before Crushing:*

10.2.1 Large primary increments may be divided in quantity before crushing by secondary sampling. In the case of dividing a primary increment before crushing, the minimum increment mass must meet the mass specified in Table 1 for the top size listed.

10.2.1.1 If each primary increment is reduced in quantity by secondary sampling, take at least six secondary increments from each uncrushed primary increment. The method of collection of secondary increments must be proved to be free from bias. In no case shall the mass of a secondary increment be less than shown in the schedule of Table 1.

10.3 *Reduction and Division:*

10.3.1 Reduce the gross or divided sample in stages and divide by suitable mechanical sample dividers (see 10.4.2) to quantities not less than those shown in Table 1 of Practice D2013/D2013M.

10.3.2 Mechanical division of the sample consists of automatically collecting a large number of increments of the properly reduced sample. Distribute this large number of increments equally throughout the entire discharge from the sample crusher because crushers can introduce appreciable segregation. At each stage of division, take at least 60 increments.

NOTE 6—Reduction and division of the mechanical samples that do not involve within-system components of the mechanical sampling system are not

covered by this document but governed by Practice [D2013/D2013M](#).

10.4 *Reduction and Division Apparatus:*

10.4.1 *Crushers or Grinders*—Jaw, cone, or rotary crusher; hammer mill; roll; or other suitable crusher to reduce the sample. Design and operate crushers in a manner to minimize the effect of induced air circulation and thus the potential for drying the coal.

10.4.1.1 *Hammer Mill*—Completely enclosed to avoid loss of dust or moisture.

10.4.2 *Sample Dividers: Mechanical*—A mechanical sample divider using a reciprocating or rotating cutter, a rotating hopper and spout, a rotating slotted cone, a reciprocating hopper and fixed cutter, bucket cutter with either bottom dump or inverting discharge, slotted belt, rotary disk divider, mechanical stopped or moving belt sweeper, or other acceptable devices for dividing the sample. Typical mechanical sample dividers are shown in [Fig. 45](#). These illustrate various designs, but other acceptable designs are available.

11. Maintenance of Mechanical Sampling System Equipment

11.1 Design a mechanical sampling system and its components to facilitate safe, thorough, and accessible inspection, cleaning, and maintenance tasks. Safe access must take into consideration all site safety rules and which inspections can only be performed while equipment is de-energized and isolated.

11.1.1 Ensure that component hatches and doors are adequate in design and located to provide access to key areas of the equipment such as: (a) cutters or dividers in parked positions; (b) condition of high-wear items such as crusher hammers, bars and screens, conveyor head and tail pulley wipers, conveyor and cutter throat skirting, or the wiping edge of cross-belt cutters or dividers; (c) points of potential pluggage within the system; and (d) other items to that particular system.

11.1.2 Enable hatches and doors to be safely opened, closed, and secured, and include seals to prevent the introduction or escape of air, or the introduction of moisture or contaminants into the component.

11.1.3 Provide adequate access to the sampling system (for example, using permanent walkways, stairways, ladders, platforms, etc.) to allow personnel to work safely and effectively on and around the equipment.

11.2 To ensure reliable system performance, develop and consistently perform well-defined and planned system inspections, and preventive and corrective maintenance action programs. This will help ensure continuous and reliable operation by detecting and then repairing components that have undergone wear to a critical degree or that are affecting system performance. To maximize the effectiveness of the preventive maintenance program and the detection of issues, conduct frequent measurements of key components and parameters, and monitor sample weights and ratios.

11.2.1 It is good practice to have a documented maintenance program to guide the implementation of the maintenance work and to record inspection dates, equipment hours, and maintenance performed. Design the program to include, at a minimum, requirements recommended by equipment and component manufacturers for the frequency and specifics of inspection, measurement, routine maintenance, and replacement when necessary. Execute the program on a scheduled basis (by calendar, by hours of operation, by tonnage, or a combination thereof) depending on the sampling system's frequency of use. An hour or tonnage-based program allows for improved predictability of when to perform maintenance or equipment replacement.

11.2.2 It is good practice to include within the program a schedule for frequent and thorough cleaning of equipment to remove material buildup, debris, or other contaminants, to minimize the potential for plugging, and to diminish the potential for long-term corrosion or decay of equipment.

11.2.3 For monitoring sampling system crusher performance, use the method prescribed in Test Method [D4749](#) to determine the particle size distribution of crushed sample material to help prevent oversized material from passing to downstream cutters or dividers. Inspect the crusher components, such as hammers, bars, and screens for wear. Worn crusher components can cause moisture loss from the sample material due to an increase in the time the material stays in the crushing chamber. Inspect crusher screens frequently and replace them promptly to prevent oversized particles from passing to downstream cutters or dividers.

11.3 Wear of mechanical components, or the failure to correct equipment not performing to specifications, may eventually cause

a sampling system which had previously shown no evidence of bias to no longer satisfy that criterion. Consistent maintenance and inspection, along with the monitoring of sample weights and ratios, will help ensure that the sampling system maintains its bias-tested performance.

12. Precision and Bias

12.1 The precision of the general-purpose sampling procedure, based on size and condition of preparation, is stated in [10.1.1.1](#). If a different precision is required, see [10.1.2](#).

12.2 Mechanical sampling systems are tested for bias using the procedures of Part D.

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