



Designation: D6063 – 96 (Reapproved 2006)

Standard Guide for Sampling of Drums and Similar Containers by Field Personnel¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This guide covers information, including flow charts, for field personnel to follow in order to collect samples from drums and similar containers.

1.2 The purpose of this guide is to help field personnel in planning and obtaining samples from drums and similar containers, using equipment and techniques that will ensure that the objectives of the sampling activity will be met. It can also be used as a training tool.

1.3 *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 and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.* See specific Warnings in 7.4.3 and 7.4.4.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

- C783 Practice for Core Sampling of Graphite Electrodes
- D1452 Practice for Soil Exploration and Sampling by Auger Borings
- D1586 Test Method for Penetration Test (SPT) and Split-Barrel Sampling of Soils
- D1587 Practice for Thin-Walled Tube Sampling of Soils for Geotechnical Purposes
- D2113 Practice for Rock Core Drilling and Sampling of Rock for Site Investigation
- D4448 Guide for Sampling Ground-Water Monitoring Wells
- D4687 Guide for General Planning of Waste Sampling
- D4700 Guide for Soil Sampling from the Vadose Zone

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D34 on Waste Management and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D34.01.02 on Sampling Techniques.

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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.

- D4823 Guide for Core Sampling Submerged, Unconsolidated Sediments
- D4840 Guide for Sample Chain-of-Custody Procedures
- D5088 Practice for Decontamination of Field Equipment Used at Waste Sites
- D5283 Practice for Generation of Environmental Data Related to Waste Management Activities: Quality Assurance and Quality Control Planning and Implementation
- D5358 Practice for Sampling with a Dipper or Pond Sampler
- D5451 Practice for Sampling Using a Trier Sampler
- D5495 Practice for Sampling With a Composite Liquid Waste Sampler (COLIWASA)

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 *bung, n*—usually a 2-in. (5-cm) or 3/4-in. (1.3-cm) diameter threaded plug specifically designed to close a bung hole.

3.1.2 *bung hole, n*—an opening in a barrel or drum through which it can be filled, emptied or vented.

3.1.3 *consolidated solid, n*—as used in this guide, a compact solid not easily compressed or broken into smaller portions.

3.1.4 *drum, n*—when used in the flow charts in this guide, the word implies any drum, barrel or non-bulk container of 5 to 110 gal (19 to 400 L) capacity.

3.1.5 *representative sample, n*—a sample collected such that it reflects one or more characteristics of interest of the lot or population from which it was collected.

3.1.6 *sample, n*—one or more items or portions collected from a lot or population.

3.1.7 *sampler, n*—the device used to obtain a sample.

3.1.8 *sludge, n*—as used in this guide, any mixture of solids that settles out of solution; sludges contain liquids that are not apparent as free liquids.

3.1.9 *unconsolidated solid, n*—as used in this guide, uncemented or uncompacted material that is easily separated into smaller portions.

3.1.10 *work plans, n*—plans that are specific to sampling at a particular site; examples are Health and Safety Plans and Sampling and Analysis Plans.

4. Summary of Guide

4.1 This guide uses a decision-tree format to lead persons intending to sample waste materials from drums and similar containers through a series of questions. The answers to the questions result in recommended actions, including the selection of appropriate sampling equipment. Brief instructions on the use of the equipment are included.

4.2 This guide addresses commonly used sampling equipment and devices; it is not intended to cover all that might be purchased or custom made.

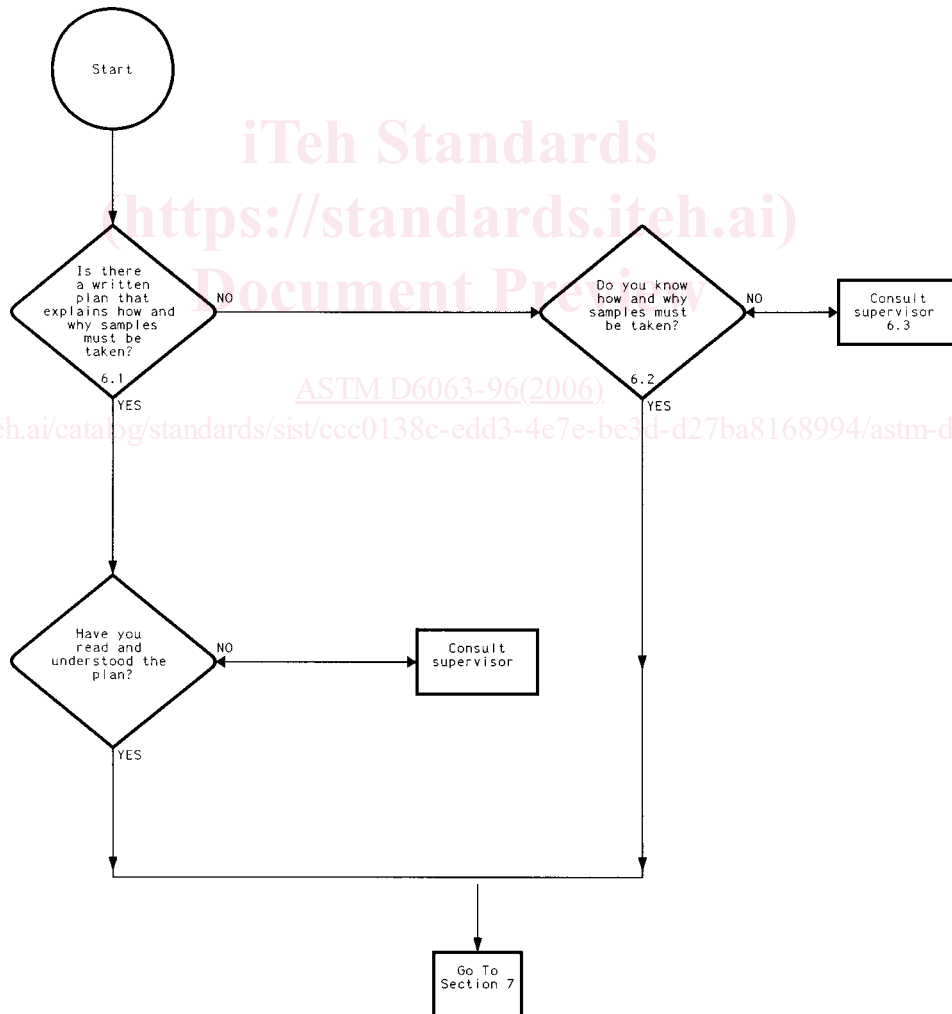
5. Significance and Use

5.1 This guide is intended to assist field personnel in obtaining samples from drums and similar containers for laboratory analysis. The costs associated with sampling and analysis make it essential that samples be taken correctly

before submitting them for chemical analysis or physical testing, or both. Incorrect sampling can invalidate resulting data.

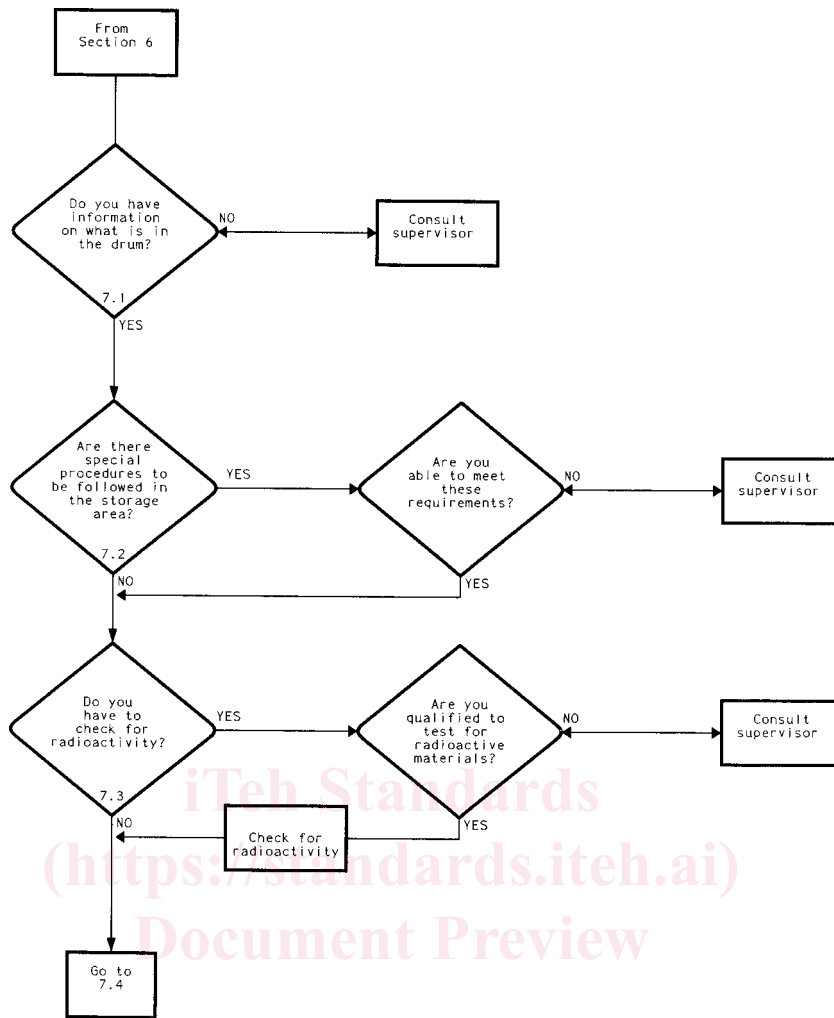
5.2 This guide may be used by personnel who have no formal workplan. It draws their attention to issues that must be addressed before, during, and after taking a sample. It provides guidance in choosing the sampling technique and equipment suitable for specific situations. It can serve as a training tool for those who are unfamiliar with sampling. It is recommended that this guide be used as a supplement to a written workplan.

5.3 Some sections of this guide contain flow charts (see Figs. 1-5) that must be worked through, starting from the top of each page. By answering the questions in the diamond-shaped boxes, and following the appropriate arrows, the person planning to sample will be guided towards the most suitable procedures and equipment. The numbers at the bottom of some boxes refer to corresponding paragraphs in the text, which provide information to help the person sampling answer the questions.



NOTE 1—This flow chart should be used with Section 6 in the text.

FIG. 1 Objectives of Sampling



NOTE 1—This flow chart should be used with Sections 7.1 to 7.3 in the text.

FIG. 2 Pre-Sampling Inspection

5.4 Figs. 6-15 are examples of types of equipment. Similar devices that do the same job in the same way are not intended to be excluded.

6. Objectives of Sampling

6.1 The purpose of sampling is to collect a representative sample of all or part of the contents of the drum or similar container, to determine the physical and chemical characteristics of those contents (see Fig. 1). This information may then be used to:

- 6.1.1 Select suitable methods of treatment and disposal of the contents,
- 6.1.2 Provide evidence for use in a court of law,
- 6.1.3 Comply with regulations, such as those for the transportation of hazardous materials,
- 6.1.4 Confirm that the drums contain what is written on the label, manifest or other type of documentation, and
- 6.1.5 Find out if any drums in a lot contain different materials from the majority.

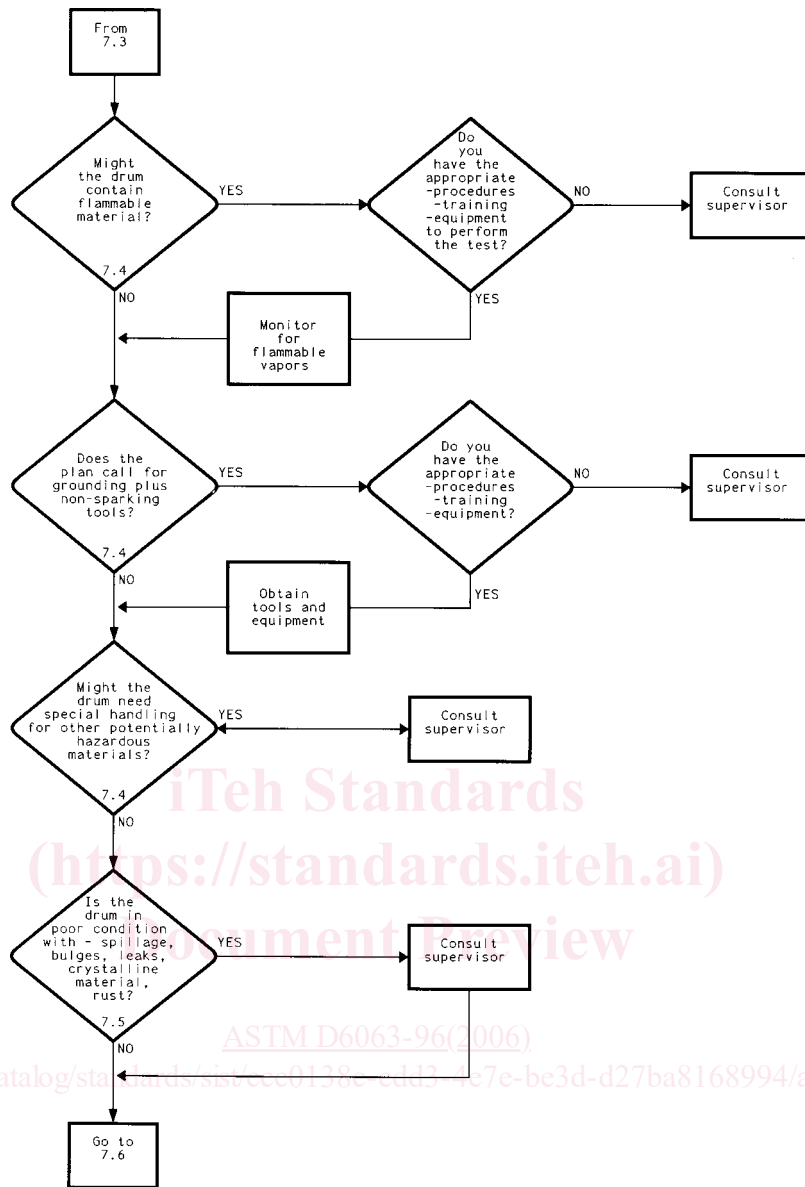
6.2 In most cases there is a written plan that describes the work to be done (Guide D4687). In other cases, there is no written plan and the instructions are only verbal.

6.3 If the objectives of sampling are unclear or unknown to the field personnel, they should question their supervisor or project manager about the objectives. Well-informed field personnel are then alert to unforeseen circumstances or events that might invalidate the samples.

7. Pre-Sampling Inspection

7.1 Information about the contents of the drums may be available from (see Fig. 2):

- 7.1.1 Previous analysis of drum contents from the same source,
- 7.1.2 The supplier/source of the material in the drums,
- 7.1.3 Manifest (shipping) documents,
- 7.1.4 Labels and other markings on the drums, or
- 7.1.5 Knowledge of the waste generating process.



NOTE 1—This flow chart should be used with Sections 7.3 to 7.5 in the text.

FIG. 2 Pre-Sampling Inspection (continued)

7.2 Personnel doing the pre-sampling and sampling must be aware of any special procedures that are to be followed at a given site. Workplans include a worker health and safety section because there are potential hazards associated with opening drums as well as with potentially hazardous contents.^{3,4} Examples of special procedures are change of clothing, use of safety equipment of various kinds, evacuation procedures, fire and explosion procedures and vehicle cleaning procedures such as water washing before leaving the site or storage area, and many others that would be site or storage specific.

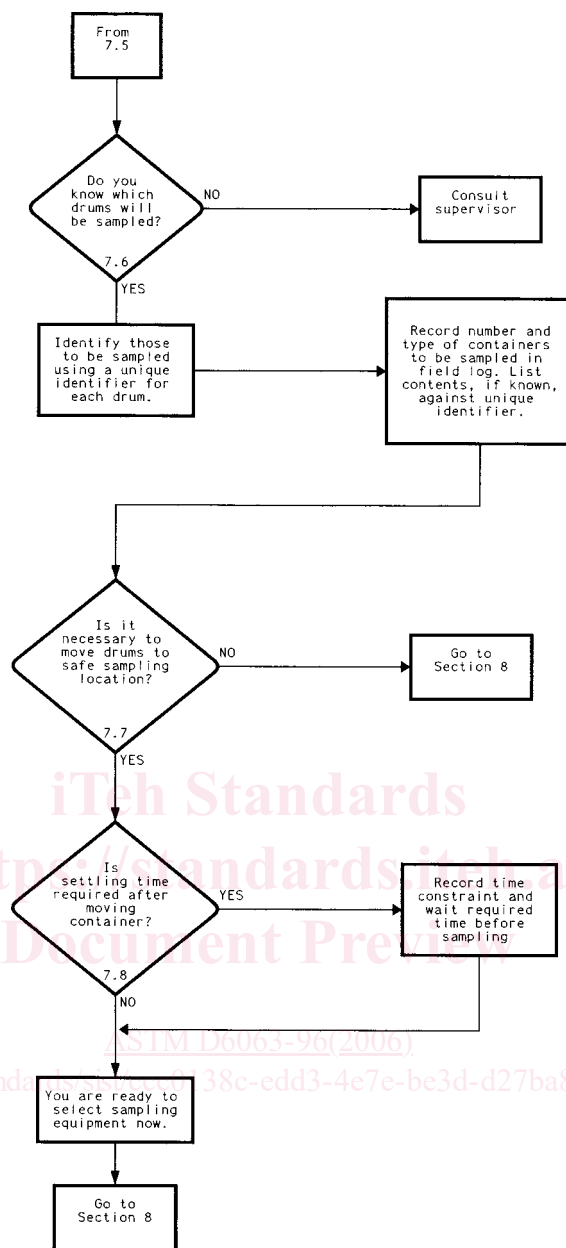
³ *Drum Handling Practices at Hazardous Waste Sites*, EPA/600/2-86/013, January 1986.

⁴ *Field Sampling Procedures Manual*, Third Edition, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Hazardous Site Mitigation, February 1988.

7.3 If you are certain that the drum does not contain radioactive material and the workplan does not require you to check for radioactivity, proceed to 7.4.

7.3.1 Many facilities are not licensed to handle radioactive materials and are legally obliged to prove that they do not knowingly accept them. Some facilities are licensed to handle radioactive materials; they need to have a measure of how radioactive the material is for the safety of their workers.

7.3.2 Hand-held monitors that check for radioactivity should always be used if you suspect that radioactive material might be present or if the workplan requires it. It is important that the monitor has been calibrated correctly, according to the manufacturer's instructions. Monitoring should be done only by those with the appropriate written procedures, training and equipment.



NOTE 1—This flow chart should be used with Sections 7.6 to 7.8 in the text.

FIG. 2 Pre-Sampling Inspection (continued)

7.3.3 It is prudent to monitor a storage area before entering it. If radioactive material is found to be present when it should not be, leave the area immediately, post warning signs to alert other workers, and consult your supervisor.

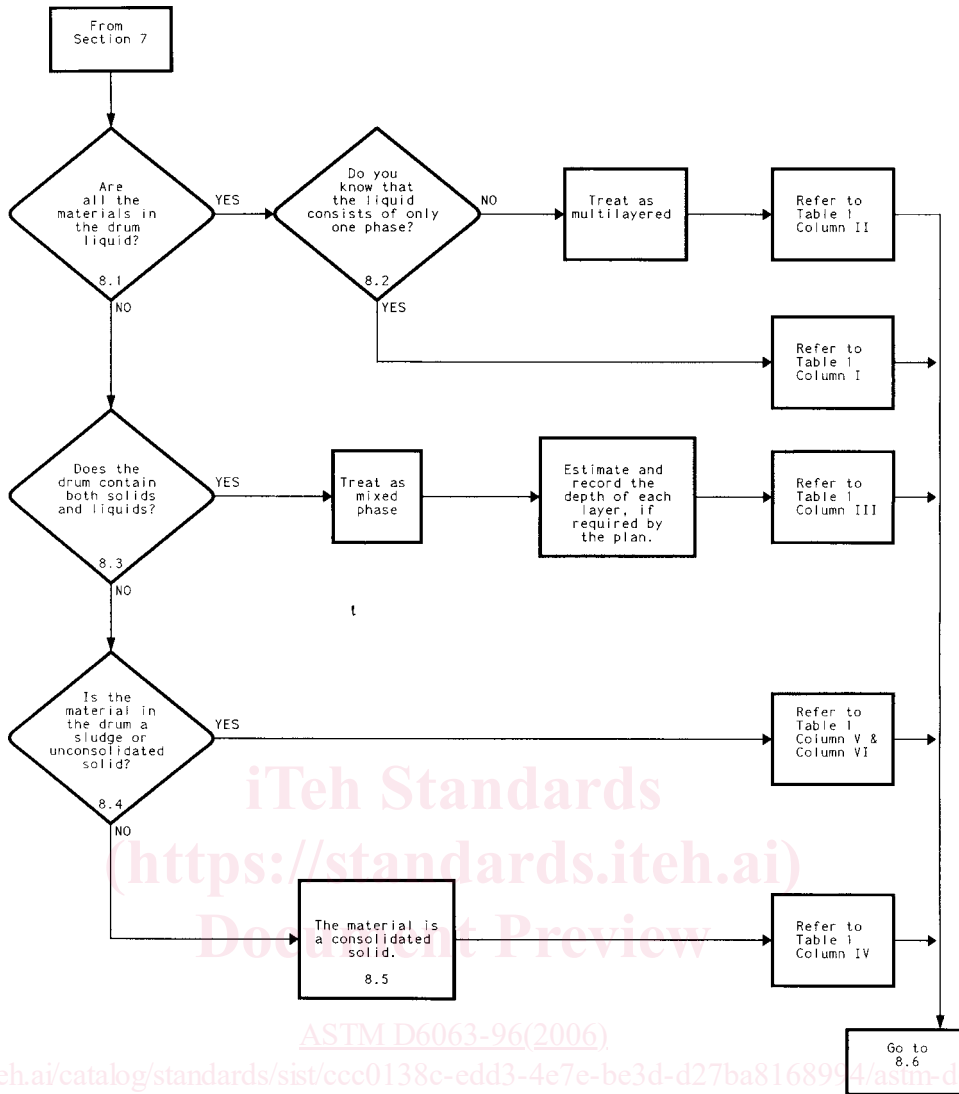
7.4 Drums may contain flammable materials, strong oxidizers or reducing materials, light-sensitive materials, corrosive acids or bases, and materials sensitive to moisture. All of these drums require special handling, including segregation.

7.4.1 Many solvents, like benzene, evaporate into air space in and around the drum where the vapour may be easily ignited.

7.4.2 If you are sampling a potentially flammable or unknown material, non-sparking tools should be used and the drums should be grounded.

7.4.3 If the drums are stored in a closed room or confined space, the air in the area should be tested by a hand-held monitor to check for flammable vapors. It is important that the monitor has been calibrated according to the manufacturer's instructions. The monitoring should be done by those with the appropriate training and written procedures. **(Warning—**Flammable materials should be sampled in a well-ventilated area. There are other safety considerations that must be considered regarding confined spaces. It may be necessary to check for explosivity or oxygen levels.)

7.4.4 Labels on drums of waste materials may not be accurate. Unless the drums come from a reliable source, for example, the generator of the material and the process that created the waste are known to you, it is prudent to assume that



NOTE 1—This flow chart should be used with Sections 8.1 to 8.5 in the text.

FIG. 3 Selection of Suitable Sampling Procedure

the labels may not match the contents. (**Warning**—Attempting to open a drum that is in poor condition can expose a worker to the possibility of a serious, even fatal, accident. Special precautions should be taken when the bungs are rusted or corroded since the drum top may give way, exposing the worker to vapor or liquid. Overpacking before sampling should be considered for drums in poor condition.)

7.5 It is not always necessary to sample every drum in a lot. The workplans provide direction as to how many, and possibly which, drums should be sampled. Each drum that will be sampled must be identified in a unique way in case a second sample has to be taken later. Colored labels, crayons, paint sticks or pens, or stencilled paint can be used to identify drums. Any new identification system should not cover the existing labels or identifiers.

7.6 Sometimes drums have to be moved to another location for sampling; this is known as “drum staging”. This is required if:

7.6.1 Sampling the drum in its present location poses a high risk to surrounding property and individuals,

7.6.2 The drum cannot be accessed for sampling in its current location, or

7.6.3 Exposure to climatic conditions alter the sample, for example, formation of ice; or create a health and safety risk, for example, the sun heating a drum containing solvents.

7.7 The physical condition of drums must be evaluated before attempting to open or move them (see Warning in 7.4.4). Drum carriers, which lock on the drum lip, should not be used to move the drum if the condition is poor.