



**International
Standard**

ISO 12744

**Copper, lead, zinc and nickel
concentrates — Experimental
methods for checking the precision
of sampling**

*Concentrés de cuivre, de plomb, de zinc et de nickel — Méthodes
expérimentales de contrôle de la fidélité de l'échantillonnage*

**Third edition
2025-03**

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Published in Switzerland

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 183, *Copper, lead, zinc and nickel ores and concentrates*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 12744:2006), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- the precisions of sampling, sample preparation and measurement are now estimated from the mean squared differences between duplicates rather than simply the mean differences, which provides a better unbiased estimate of precision.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Copper, lead, zinc and nickel concentrates — Experimental methods for checking the precision of sampling

WARNING — This document can involve hazardous materials, operations and equipment. It is the responsibility of the user of this document to establish appropriate health and safety practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.

1 Scope

This document specifies methods for checking the precision of primary sampling, sample processing, chemical analysis, physical testing and determination of moisture content of copper, lead, zinc and nickel concentrates being carried out in accordance with the methods specified in ISO 12743, expressed in terms of standard deviations.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 10258, *Copper sulfide concentrates — Determination of copper content — Titrimetric methods*

ISO 11441, *Lead sulfide concentrates — Determination of lead content — Back titration of EDTA after precipitation of lead sulfate*

ISO 12743, *Copper, lead, zinc and nickel concentrates — Sampling procedures for determination of metal and moisture content*

3 Terms and definitions

No terms and definitions are listed in this document.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

4 Symbols

k	number of lots
n	number of increments
R_1	absolute difference between duplicates for interleaved samples A and B
R_2	absolute difference between means for divided interleaved samples A_1 and A_2 , and B_1 and B_2
R_3	absolute difference between means for interleaved sample A and interleaved sample B
s	estimated value of standard deviation, σ

s_1^2	estimated variance from R_1^2
s_2^2	estimated variance from R_2^2
s_3^2	estimated variance from R_3^2
s_A	estimated standard deviation of analysis
s_P	estimated standard deviation of sample processing
s_S	estimated standard deviation of sampling
s_{SP}	estimated standard deviation of sampling and sample processing
s_T	estimated total standard deviation of sampling, sample processing and analysis
x_{i1}	first duplicate result for interleaved sample, where $i = 1$ and 2 and indicates interleaved sample A or B
x_{i2}	second duplicate result for interleaved sample, where $i = 1$ and 2 and indicates interleaved sample A or B
x_{ij1}	first duplicate result for interleaved sample, where $i = 1$ and 2 and indicates interleaved sample A or B, and $j = 1$ or 2 and indicates laboratory samples A_1 or A_2 , and B_1 or B_2
x_{ij2}	second duplicate result for sample, where $i = 1$ and 2 and indicates interleaved sample A or B, and $j = 1$ or 2 and indicates laboratory samples A_1 or A_2 , and B_1 or B_2
\bar{x}	mean value of duplicate results
$\bar{\bar{x}}$	mean of mean value of duplicate results
$\bar{\bar{\bar{x}}}$	mean of $\bar{\bar{x}}$ values, and grand mean for sample processing method 3
$\bar{\bar{\bar{\bar{x}}}}$	grand mean of all results for sample processing methods 1 and 2

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5 General conditions

5.1 General

The determination of precision of primary sampling is based on collecting pairs of interleaved samples from each lot. If sample processing and measurement are also carried out in duplicate, it is possible to determine the precision of sample processing and analysis.

5.2 Number of lots

It is recommended that pairs of interleaved samples should be collected from more than 20 lots of the same type of concentrate, in order to reach a reliable conclusion. The lot size shall be chosen to ensure that more than 20 lots are available for the precision determination.

5.3 Number of increments and number of samples

The minimum number of increments for checking precision should preferably be twice the number determined in accordance with ISO 12743. Hence, if the number of increments required for routine sampling is n and one lot sample is constituted, the minimum number of increments should be $2n$, and two interleaved samples shall be constituted.

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Alternatively, if the precision is being checked as part of routine sampling, n increments may be taken and two interleaved samples constituted, each comprising $n/2$ increments. The sampling precision thus obtained shall be divided by $\sqrt{2}$ to obtain the sampling precision for lot samples comprising n increments.

5.4 Sample processing and analysis

Sample processing shall be carried out in accordance with ISO 12743. The analysis of samples shall be carried out according to the methods specified in the relevant International Standards, such as ISO 10258, ISO 11441 and ISO 12739.

5.5 Frequency of precision checks

It is recommended that, even after a precision check has been conducted, further checks should be carried out at regular intervals. Precision checks should also be carried out when there is a change in equipment.

Because of the large amount of work involved in checking precision, it is recommended that checks should be carried out as a part of routine sampling and analysis.

6 Method of experiment

6.1 Interleaved samples

Each alternate primary increment shall be diverted so that pairs of interleaved samples A and B are formed. The number of divided increments per primary increment should be the same as for routine sampling. An example of a sampling plan for producing pairs of interleaved samples A and B is shown in [Figure 1](#).

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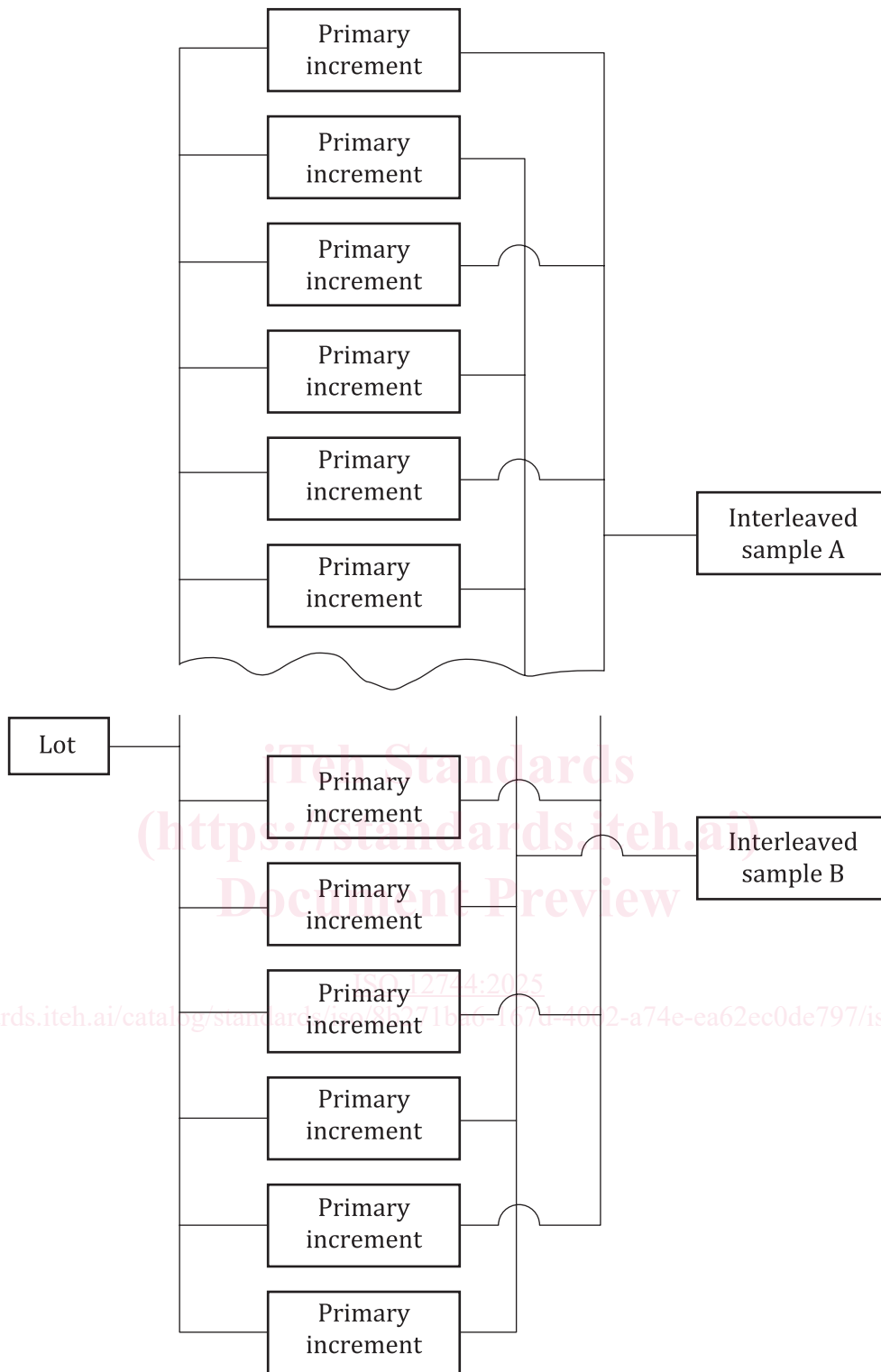


Figure 1 — Example of a plan for interleaved duplicate sampling

6.2 Sample processing and analysis

6.2.1 General

The pairs of interleaved samples A and B taken in accordance with 6.1 shall be divided separately and subjected to method 1, method 2 or method 3 sample processing and analysis as described in 6.2.2, 6.2.3 or 6.2.4.

6.2.2 Sample processing method 1

The two interleaved samples A and B shall be divided separately to prepare four laboratory samples: A₁, A₂, B₁ and B₂. These laboratory samples shall each be analysed in duplicate, and the duplicates designated as follows:

- x_{111} and x_{112} for sample A₁;
- x_{121} and x_{122} for sample A₂;
- x_{211} and x_{212} for sample B₁;
- x_{221} and x_{222} for sample B₂.

See [Figure 2](#).

The eight determinations shall be run in random order, by the same analyst on the same day using the same analytical equipment. An example is given in [Annex A](#).

NOTE By using method 1, the estimated precisions of sampling, sample processing and analysis can be obtained separately.

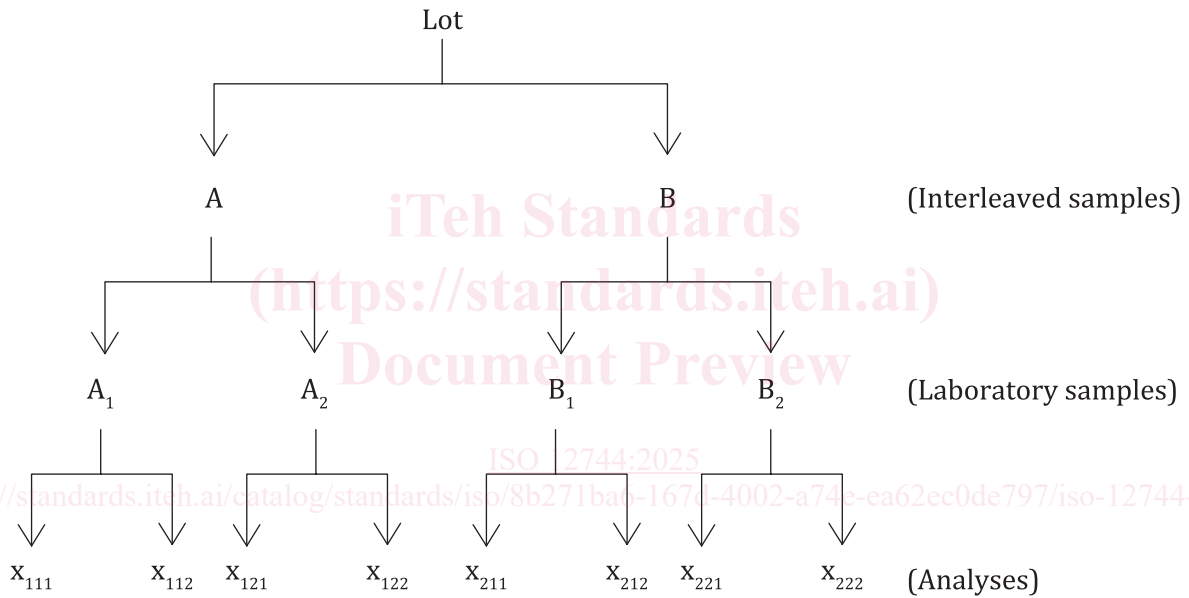


Figure 2 — Flowsheet for sample processing method 1

6.2.3 Sample processing method 2

Sample A shall be divided to prepare two laboratory samples: A₁ and A₂. From sample B, only one laboratory sample shall be prepared. The laboratory samples shall each be analysed in duplicate, and the duplicates designated as follows:

- x_{111} and x_{112} for sample A₁;
- x_{121} and x_{122} for sample A₂;
- x_{21} and x_{22} for sample B.

See [Figure 3](#).

The six determinations shall be run in random order, by the same analyst on the same day using the same analytical equipment.

NOTE By using method 2, the estimated precisions of sampling, sample processing and analysis can be obtained separately. However, the estimated values will be less precise than those obtained using method 1.

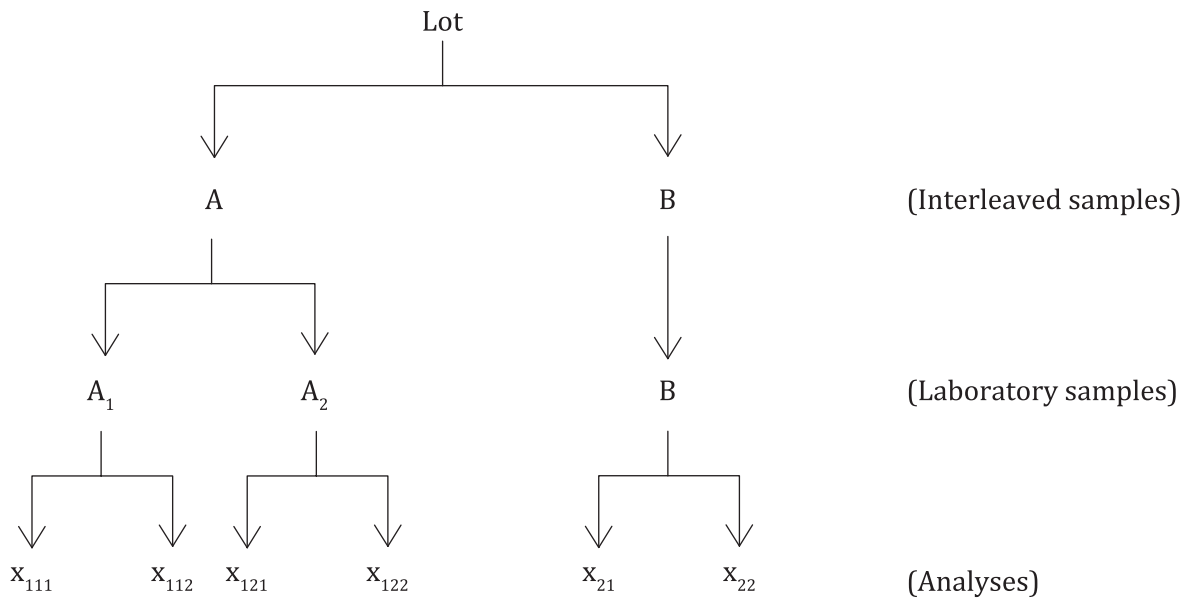


Figure 3 — Flowsheet for sample processing method 2

6.2.4 Sample processing method 3

From each of the two interleaved samples A and B, one laboratory sample shall be prepared. The two laboratory samples A and B shall be analysed in duplicate, and the measurements obtained shall be designated as follows:

- x_{11} and x_{12} for sample A;
- x_{21} and x_{22} for sample B.

See [Figure 4](#).

The four determinations shall be run in random order, by the same analyst on the same day using the same analytical equipment.

NOTE By using method 3, only the estimated precision of analysis and the combined precision of sampling and sample processing are obtained.