
**Hard coal and coke — Mechanical
sampling —**

**Part 3:
Coal — Sampling from stationary lots**

Houille et coke — Échantillonnage mécanique —

Partie 3: Charbon — Échantillonnage sur lots statiques

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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 documents 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).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#)

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 27, *Solid mineral fuels*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Sampling*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 13909-3:2001), which has been technically revised.

ISO 13909 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Hard coal and coke — Mechanical sampling*:

- *Part 1: General introduction*
- *Part 2: Coal — Sampling from moving streams*
- *Part 3: Coal — Sampling from stationary lots*
- *Part 4: Coal — Preparation of test samples*
- *Part 5: Coke — Sampling from moving streams*
- *Part 6: Coke — Preparation of test samples*
- *Part 7: Methods for determining the precision of sampling, sample preparation and testing*
- *Part 8: Methods of testing for bias*

Hard coal and coke — Mechanical sampling —

Part 3: Coal — Sampling from stationary lots

1 Scope

This part of ISO 13909 specifies procedures for the mechanical sampling of coal from stationary lots, for example, from wagons, barges, ships and stockpiles. These procedures are to be used when it is not possible to sample the lots during loading or discharge according to ISO 13909-2. Procedures for sample preparation are given in ISO 13909-4.

This part of ISO 13909 is applicable to mechanical sampling from stationary coal lots, to obtain samples from which test samples for the determination of moisture, and for general analysis including physical and chemical tests, can be prepared in accordance with the requirements and recommendations set out in ISO 13909-4.

In this part of ISO 13909, the principles and procedures for designing a sampling scheme are given, together with typical examples of applications; in addition, practices for the execution of sampling in different sampling situations are described. The methods described are limited to those on which it is possible to conduct a test for bias.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 13909-1, *Hard coal and coke — Mechanical sampling — Part 1: General introduction*

ISO 13909-2, *Hard coal and coke — Mechanical sampling — Part 2: Coal — Sampling from moving streams*

ISO 13909-4, *Hard coal and coke — Mechanical sampling — Part 4: Coal — Preparation of test samples*

ISO 13909-7, *Hard coal and coke — Mechanical sampling — Part 7: Methods for determining the precision of sampling, sample preparation and testing*

ISO 13909-8, *Hard coal and coke — Mechanical sampling — Part 8: Methods of testing for bias*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 13909-1 apply.

4 Establishing a sampling scheme

4.1 General

The general procedure for establishing a sampling scheme is as follows.

- a) Define the quality parameters to be determined and the types of samples required.
- b) Define the lot.

- c) Define or assume the precision required (see [4.3.1](#)).
- d) Determine the method of combining the increments into samples and the method of sample preparation (see ISO 13909-4).
- e) Determine or assume the variability of the coal (see [4.3.2](#)) and the variance of preparation and testing (see [4.3.3](#)). Methods for determining variability and variance of preparation and testing are given in ISO 13909-7.
- f) Establish the number of sub-lots and the number of increments per sub-lot required to attain the desired precision (see [4.3.4](#)).
- g) Decide upon the sampling interval, in tonnes.
- h) Ascertain the nominal top size of coal for the purpose of determining the minimum mass of sample (see [4.4](#) and [Table 1](#)).

The nominal top size may initially be ascertained by consulting the consignment details, or by visual estimation, and may be verified, if necessary, by preliminary test work.

- i) Determine the minimum average increment mass (see [4.5](#)).

4.2 Design of the sampling scheme

4.2.1 Material to be sampled

The first stage in the design of the scheme is to identify the coal to be sampled. Samples may be required for technical evaluation, process control, quality control and for commercial reasons by both the producer and the customer. It is essential to ascertain exactly at what stage in the coal-handling process the sample is required and, as far as practicable, to design the scheme accordingly. In some instances, however, it may prove impracticable to obtain samples at the preferred points and, in such cases, a more practicable alternative is required.

4.2.2 Division of lots

A lot may be sampled as a whole or as a series of sub-lots, e.g. coal despatched or delivered over a period of time, a ship load, a train load, a wagon load or coal produced in a certain period (e.g. a shift).

It may be necessary to divide a lot into a number of sub-lots in order to improve the precision of the results.

For lots sampled over long periods, it may be expedient to divide the lot into a series of sub-lots, obtaining a sample for each.

4.2.3 Precision of sampling

After the desired sample precision has been selected, the number of sub-lots and the minimum number of increments per sub-lot collected shall be determined as described in [4.3.4](#), and the average mass of the primary increments shall be determined as described in [4.5](#).

For single lots, the quality variation shall be assumed as the worst case (see [4.3.2](#) and [4.3.3](#)). The precision of sampling achieved may be measured using the procedure of replicate sampling (see ISO 13909-7).

At the start of regular sampling of unknown coals, the worst-case quality variation shall be assumed, in accordance with [4.3.2](#), [4.3.3](#) and [4.3.4](#). When sampling is in operation, a check may be carried out to confirm that the desired precision has been achieved, using the procedures described in ISO 13909-7.

If any subsequent change in precision is required, the number of sub-lots and of increments shall be changed as determined in [4.3.4](#) and the precision attained shall be rechecked. The precision shall also

be checked if there is any reason to suppose that the variability of the coal being sampled has increased. The number of increments determined in 4.3.4 applies to the precision of the result when the sampling errors are large relative to the testing errors, e.g. for moisture content.

4.2.4 Bias of sampling

It is of particular importance in sampling to ensure, as far as possible, that the parameter to be measured is not altered by the sampling and sample preparation process or by subsequent storage prior to testing. This may require, in some circumstances, a limit on the minimum mass of primary increment (see 4.5).

When collecting samples for moisture determination from lots over an extended period, it may be necessary to limit the standing time of samples by dividing the lot into a number of sub-lots (see 4.3.4.1).

When a coal sampling scheme is implemented, it shall be checked for bias in accordance with the methods given in ISO 13909-8.

4.3 Precision of results

4.3.1 Precision and total variance

In all methods of sampling, sample preparation and analysis, errors are incurred and the experimental results obtained from such methods for any given parameter will deviate from the true value of that parameter. While the absolute deviation of a single result from the “true” value cannot be determined, it is possible to make an estimate of the precision of the experimental results. This is the closeness with which the results of a series of measurements made on the same coal agree among themselves.

It is possible to design a sampling scheme by which, in principle, an arbitrary level of precision can be achieved.

The required overall precision for a lot is normally agreed between the parties concerned. In the absence of such agreement, a value of one tenth of the ash content may be assumed up to 10 % ash, subject to a maximum of 1 % absolute for ash contents above 10 %.

The theory of the estimation of precision is discussed in ISO 13909-7. The following formula is derived:

$$P_L = 2\sqrt{\frac{\frac{V_I}{n} + V_{PT}}{m}} \quad (1)$$

where

P_L is the estimated index of overall precision of sampling, sample preparation and testing for the lot at a 95 % confidence level, expressed as percentage absolute;

V_I is the primary increment variance;

n is the number of increments per sub-lot;

m is the number of sub-lots in the lot;

V_{PT} is the preparation and testing variance.

If the quality of a coal of a type not previously sampled is required, then in order to devise a sampling scheme, assumptions have to be made about the variability (see 4.3.2). The precision actually achieved for a particular lot by the scheme devised can be measured by the procedures given in ISO 13909-7.