

Recommendations for the sampling, transport and storage of samples

- Sampling : samples should be collected from representative manufacturing or storage conditions.
- Packaging and transport : transportation conditions of samples can dramatically affect analytical results. Gases could be shipped in suitably conditioned and controlled Tedlar® bags. Samples should always be protected from chemical contamination, such as cross contamination of collocated samples, evaporative losses or exposure to the action of ambient parameters such as moisture, oxygen, heat or light. For solid products, this can usually be achieved by wrapping specimens separately in tightly closed aluminium foils, in quality aluminised polymeric films or eventually clear fluorinated films such as Tedlar®. Liquid products should be shipped in vapour tight inert containers.
- Sample description : the sample should be labelled with the details of the type of product, date of manufacture and/or any identification numbers, e.g. batch numbers.
- Storage : storage may affect the features of the sample in connection with ageing of the matrix or other parasite phenomena such as the release of volatile organic compounds. It is recommended to minimise the storage time of samples. In some cases it may be appropriate to store and suitably condition the sample in the laboratory before starting tests and measurements. The sample should be duly packaged and stored at appropriate generally indoors conditions in case storage was unavoidable.