COGLS214
Prepare samples for testing in life sciences and related industries

Overview

This standard is about preparing samples that will be going for further testing. You will be expected to follow approved procedures and methods to ensure that all samples are ready for the test they have to undergo. You will be expected understand the procedure to be followed and the level of accuracy that will be required in the preparation.

The results of any analysis or test are completely dependent on the sample preparation. Any mistakes made in sample handling and preparation render any subsequent analysis or test invalid.

It is therefore essential that the laid down procedures are followed accurately. You will be expected to be familiar with these procedures and what to do if a preparation goes wrong. You are not expected to be responsible for developing new methods of preparation.

Who is this Standard for

This standard is recommended for new recruits or junior laboratory staff.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 ensure that your work is carried out in accordance with workplace procedures
- P2 ensure that you establish the identity of the sample and check it's integrity
- P3 collect and transport the samples correctly
- P4 confirm the relevant controlled conditions for sample preparation are present
- P5 prepare samples for scientific or technical testing in accordance with the correct procedures
- P6 identify and store test samples correctly until required
- P7 deal with any waste material in accordance with workplace procedures
- P8 communicate the required information about the work done, to authorised people, in accordance with departmental and organisational procedures

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

K1 the health and safety requirements of the area in which you are carrying out the activities

K2 the implications of not taking account of legislation, regulations, standards and guidelines when conducting the activities

K3 the correct procedures for handling storing and transporting the samples to be prepared

K4 what methods of sample preparation to use

K5 why the right sample preparation conditions are important

K6 how to control sample preparation conditions

K7 how to check integrity and identity of samples prepared

K8 the types of equipment used to prepare samples and how to ensure it is ready for use

K9 how to load and unload equipment used in sample preparation

K10 the procedure to be followed when samples do not match up with the accompanying documentation

K11 the procedure to be followed if a hazardous or high risk sample was received in the workplace

K12 the procedures for storing prepared samples when archiving is required

K13 the factors which might adversely affect the integrity of the sample during storage or transport

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