

# Sampling procedure

## 1 Scope

To define a procedure for sampling from a batch of corrugated fibreboard in sheets, or from corrugated containers, for the purpose of obtaining a representative sample for testing. The test is applicable to all kinds of corrugated fibreboard.

## 2 References

From each batch a number of bundles or pallets will be selected at random. Random means that any item shall have an equal chance of being selected as part of the **sample**. From each of the bundles or pallets a specified number of **individual samples** will be picked. From individual samples the **test specimens** for the various tests will be cut with adequate dimensions.

A **batch** is a quantity of corrugated fibreboard of one sort or type which may be considered homogeneous, and may consist of one or several bundles or pallets.

A **sample** is the total number of individual samples from one batch.

An **individual sample** is a sheet of corrugated fibreboard, or a case, taken from a bundle or pallet.

A **test specimen** is a piece of corrugated board cut from an individual sample.

## 3 Principle

### 3.1. Determination of the total number of individual samples

The number of individual samples to be taken, as a minimum, from a batch will be determined by the formula :

$$n = \sqrt[3]{N}$$

Where:

n = total number of individual samples, and

N = total number of sheets or cases in the batch.

For convenience, the following table may be used:

N	n
1,000 or less	10
1,001 to 5,000	15
5,001 to 10,000	20
10,001 to 20,000	25
20,001 to 30,000	30
30,001 or more	40

(the minimum in any case will thus be 10, and the maximum 40).

### 3.2. Selection of individual samples

Each of the bundles or pallets selected according to Clause 3 will be handled as follows :

*After removal of the wrapping or strapping materials at least five topmost sheets or cases will be eliminated. Thereupon, so many individual samples will be picked at random from the bundles or pallets that the total number of individual samples thus obtained from the batch will equal « n » as defined in Clause 3.1. An approximately equal number of individual samples shall be taken from each bundle or pallet selected.*

### 3.3. Handling of individual samples

Keep the samples flat, without compression, and protect them from direct sunlight, liquids, or anything liable to alter their condition.

### 3.4. Marking of samples

Individual samples will be marked in a corner in such a manner as to ensure perfect identification.

### 3.5. Repeated sampling

If repeated sampling is necessary, it will be done in accordance with the method. Unless it is otherwise specified, and if it is possible, samples shall not be taken from bundles or pallets which have been used for the first sampling.

## 4 Report

The report will contain the following information :

- a Date and place of sampling
- b Inspector's name
- c Manufacturer's name
- d Size of batch
- e Number and type of bundles or pallets
- f Number of individual samples pursuant to clause 3.1.
- g Identification marks on the samples
- h Details of any deviation from this sampling method
- i Any other information which may assist in the evaluation of the sample.