

GUIDELINES FOR SAMPLING AND SAMPLE PACKAGING

Packaging of one or more samples

- ✓ Always send the samples in a strong cardboard box and close the box carefully.
- ✓ Avoid loose packed samples by filling the box with paper or PU foam.
- ✓ Put as many samples as possible in one box, but try to limit the weight of a box to 20 kg maximum.
- ✓ Make sure that the analysis request form is completely filled in and add it to the packaging.
- ✓ Avoid sending samples on Friday in order to limit the transportation duration.

Packaging of the individual sample

- ✓ The packaging serves to avoid dehydration and damaging, but also prevents cross-contamination between different samples
- ✓ See to it that every sample is individually packed (preferably in a polyethylene (PE) bag) and also individually labelled to guarantee correct identification
- ✓ For easily damaged products (e.g. strawberries, peaches, tomatoes, ...) a closed box per sample is recommended
- ✓ Ensure correct sampling (e.g. in compliance with EU directive 2002/63) and take the following guidelines into account when packing a sample

GROUP	PRODUCT TYPE	RECOMMENDED QUANTITY PER SAMPLE	PACKAGING PER SAMPLE
Fruits and vegetables, including potatoes and sugar beets	Small fresh products, units generally < 25 g (e.g. berries, peas, olives)	1 kg with a maximum of 2 kg	Well packed in a closed box or PE bag
	Medium-sized fresh products, units generally > 25 g and < 250 g (e.g. apples, oranges, potatoes)	1 kg with a minimum of 10 units and a maximum of 2 kg	Well packed in a closed PE bag
	Large fresh products (e.g. melon, cauliflower)	2 kg with a minimum of 5 units and a maximum of 2 kg	Well packed in a closed PE bag
Fresh herbs		0.5 kg with a maximum of 2 kg	Well packed in a closed PE bag

Pulses		1 kg with a maximum of 2 kg	Well packed in a closed PE bag
Cereals		1 kg with a maximum of 2 kg	Well packed in a closed PE bag
Nuts		1 kg with a maximum of 2 kg	Well packed in a closed PE bag
Seeds		0.5 kg with a maximum of 2 kg	Well packed in a closed PE bag
Dried spices		0.1 kg with a maximum of 0.5 kg	Well packed in a closed PE bag
Finished products	Products with a high unit value	0.1 kg with a maximum of 0.5 kg	In its original packaging and possibly(not obligatory) in an additional well-closed PE bag
	Solid products of low bulk	0.2 kg with a maximum of 1 kg	In its original packaging and possibly(not obligatory) in an additional well-closed PE bag
	Other solid products, oils and juices	0.5 L or 0.5 kg with a maximum of 2 L or 2 kg	In its original packaging and possibly(not obligatory) in an additional well-closed PE bag
Water		1 L with a maximum of 2 L	In a PE bottle, packed in a well-closed PE bag
Deep-frozen samples		1 kg with a maximum of 2 kg	Each sample in a well-closed PE bag, all together in EPS packaging with sufficient ice packs