

Australian Standard™

**Guide to the sampling of particulate
materials**

Part 4: Checking for bias



S t a n d a r d s Australia

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee MN-010, Sampling of Minerals. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 28 February 2001 and published on 15 March 2001.

The following interests are represented on Committee MN-010:

Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy
Bureau of Steel Manufacturers of Australia
Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia
CSIRO Mathematical and Information Sciences
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Minerals Council of Australia
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Part 4: Checking for bias

First published as AS 4433.4—2001.

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Published by Standards Australia International Ltd
GPO Box 5420, Sydney, NSW 2001, Australia

ISBN 0 7337 3807 9

PREFACE

This Guide was prepared by Standards Australia Committee MN-010, Sampling of Minerals as a basis for preparing Standards for the sampling of a range of minerals from moving streams and stationary situations.

This Guide is Part 4 of the AS 4433 series for the sampling of particulate materials, to be used for the preparation of sampling Standards for a number of mineral commodities. Other Standards in the series are as follows:

Part 1: Sampling procedures

Part 2: Preparation of samples

Part 3: Estimating sampling precision

Part 5: Sampling of slurries

Part 6: Inspection of mechanical sampling systems

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STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard

Guide to the sampling of particulate materials

Part 4: Checking for bias

1 SCOPE

This Guide sets out methods for checking mechanical sampling systems for bias. It covers primary sampling of particulate materials and subsequent sample preparation, whether manual methods or mechanical devices are employed. Bias testing involves an initial system check, comparison of routine sampling with a reference method, and ongoing system checks to confirm conformance. This is referred to as testing 'relative bias' if there is not a strong reason for expecting the alternative set of sampling procedures to be much more reliable than the routine sampling procedures.

2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 4264 | Coal and coke—Sampling |
| 4264.4 | Part 4: Determination of precision and bias |
| 4433 | Guide to the sampling of particulate materials |
| 4433.1 | Part 1: Sampling procedures |
| 4433.2 | Part 2: Preparation of samples |
| 4433.6 | Part 6: Inspection of mechanical sampling systems |

ISO

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 3086 | Iron ores—Experimental methods for checking the bias of sampling |
| 12745 | Copper, lead and zinc ores and concentrates—Precision and bias of mass measurement techniques |
| 13292 | Copper, lead and zinc sulfide concentrates—Experimental methods for checking the bias of sampling |

3 DEFINITIONS

For definitions relevant to this Standard refer to AS 4433.1 and AS 4433.2.

4 FUNDAMENTALS OF BIAS

4.1 Bias

Bias is a tendency for estimates of a characteristic to be persistently higher or persistently lower than a reference value. The persistence of a bias is often not made clear. A bias is likely to remain approximately consistent only while moisture content, particle size distribution, material source or other aspects of the material or sampling system remain approximately constant.