



Method Summary

Homogenisation of Soil Samples

Scope and Range

This method details the procedure for producing representative samples from a soil sample as supplied to the laboratory and for making a composite sample from several samples as supplied. The resulting representative samples are then analysed according to the appropriate analytical method.

References

Standing Committee of Analysts 'The preparation and pre-treatment of potentially contaminated soils and similar materials prior to chemical analysis.' Methods for the Examination of Waters and Associated Materials 2005

BS 3882

Principle

For a single sample received from the client the whole or a representative proportion of the sample is homogenised by mixing thoroughly. Care is taken to make sure that the portion taken comes from all parts of the original sample to ensure the sample taken is representative of the original sample. For a number of samples which are to be made into a composite, equal weight sub-samples are taken from each of the original samples and placed in a large foil tray.

The soil is visually inspected for fibres indicative inclusions (e.g. bricks, bulk, concrete, etc.) and appropriate action is taken if asbestos contamination is suspected. At the customer request, stones and other objects are removed from the sample at this stage. The soil in the tray is then thoroughly mixed using a spatula or by kneading if a clay-type soil sample is being homogenised.

If any analysis is required on a dry sample a representative portion is dried at 35(+/-2)°C and crushed prior to analysis.

Interferences

None listed