

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Referee Sample Analysis

Background:

Fuel Supply Agreements/ Tripartite sampling agreements do not have Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for referee analysis time-lines resulting in inordinate delays in sending the samples and subsequently obtaining results. As per the Tripartite MOU dated 28.06.2016 signed amongst CIL, Power Utility and CSIR-CIMFR, CIMFR shall be responsible for custody, transportation and analysis of referee samples through designated labs. Wherever mechanical sizing facilities are available/working, sample of 212 Micron size shall be prepared. Wherever such facilities are not available, Coal Company shall provide the same. Till such time, sample of 3.35 mm shall be prepared. Following SOP is issued by the Apex Committee for implementation.

- i. Referee Sample shall be retained in double sealed condition duly signed by the representatives of Coal Company and the representative of Power Utility along with the signature of CSIR-CIMFR representatives and kept in safe custody of CSIR-CIMFR at the loading point for 30 days from the date of sample collection or for 15 days from the date of communication of results by CIMFR, whichever is later. Disposal of the unchallenged referee samples will be done by CSIR-CIMFR under intimation to the Coal company and Power utility with proper documentation of sample details.
- ii. For safe custody of referee samples, locker of Godrej make or equivalent make shall be provided by Coal Company at loading end. If it fails to do so, the same may be provided by Purchaser within reasonable time. All the keys will be solely under the custody of CSIR-CIMFR.
- iii. For more transparency in handling of referee samples, a separate room without any windows shall be provided by the Coal Company for referee sample preservation, which will be under surveillance of CCTV round the clock. CCTV footage shall be provided to CSIR-CIMFR on monthly basis.
- iv. Power utility/Coal Companies may raise dispute, if any, within seven days of the submission of result by CSIR-CIMFR excluding the date of submission.
- v. In order to remove the randomness in challenging results through referee samples, the referee sample challenge will be submitted along with the Challenging party's test reports. The decision of sending samples for referee shall not be accepted if it is not supported with the test results of the coal company/ power station; as the case may be. Challenging party shall communicate the details of referee challenged samples as per the format used for routine test reports submitted to concerned parties on routine basis, on the letterheads, to respective Research Zones of CSIR- CIMFR viz. Dhanbad, Ranchi, Bilaspur and Nagpur from where results are received. Every stakeholder shall have two permanent official email IDs for the purpose of third party analysis results and referee related issues.
- vi. The challenging party will send email (for referee challenge) in reply to CIMFR results. Challenging party shall also inform other party regarding the dispute. However, non receipt of information by other party shall not affect referee process.

