

**AMIS0285**

**Certified Reference Material**

**Gold, greenstone tails,  
Sabodala Gold Mine, Senegal**

***Certificate of Analysis***

---

**AMIS**

(A Division of Torre Analytical Services (Pty) Limited)  
(Reg. No. 1989/000201/07)

**A:** 11 Avalon Road, West Lake View Ext 11, Modderfontein, South Africa

**P:** PO Box 856, Isando, 1600, Gauteng, South Africa

**T:** +27 (0) 11 923-0800

**W:** [www.amis.co.za](http://www.amis.co.za)

**Directors:** JT Botes, R Naidoo, NN Robinson, M Padayachee

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	1
LIST OF TABLES .....	2
LIST OF APPENDICES .....	2
SUMMARY STATISTICS .....	3
1. Certified Concentrations and Uncertainties .....	4
2. Intended Use .....	5
3. Abbreviations and Symbols .....	5
4. Uncertified Concentration Values .....	7
5. Units .....	7
6. Analytical and Physical Methods .....	7
7. Origin of Material .....	7
8. Approximate Mineral and Chemical Composition .....	7
9. Health and Safety .....	7
10. Method of Preparation .....	7
11. Handling .....	8
12. Methods of Analysis Requested .....	8
13. Information Requested of Participating Laboratories .....	8
14. Certification of Mean and Estimation of Measurement Uncertainty .....	8
15. Participating Laboratories .....	9
16. Accepted Assay Data .....	10
17. Reported Values .....	12
18. Validation of Accuracy (Trueness) .....	12
19. Limit of Detection and Limit of Quantitation in Gravimetric Fire Assay .....	12
20. Metrological Traceability .....	12
21. Period of Validity .....	13
22. Minimum Sample Size .....	13
23. Availability .....	13
24. Recommended use in Quality Control .....	13
25. Legal Notice .....	13
REFERENCES .....	14
APPENDICES .....	15

## LIST OF TABLES

<b>Table 1.</b> Certified concentrations, two standard deviations, combined and expanded uncertainty. ....	4
<b>Table 2.</b> Certified major oxides concentrations, two standard deviations, combined and expanded uncertainty.....	4
<b>Table 3.</b> Abbreviations, symbols and descriptions. ....	5
<b>Table 4.</b> Data used to calculate the certified values after removal of outliers. ....	10
<b>Table 5.</b> Uncertified element concentrations statistics. ....	15
<b>Table 6.</b> A single-factor ANOVA table showing key elements. Where P is the total number of groups, or laboratories. P-1 is 1 less than number of laboratories, P (n-1) is the number of data values minus number of groups (equals degrees of freedom for each group added together), and P-1 + P(n-1) is 1 less than number of data points. MS is the mean squares of between laboratories and within laboratories. After Ellison <i>et al.</i> , (2009), Table 6.2, page 61.....	19
<b>Table 7.</b> CRM certified value, quoted expanded uncertainty <i>U</i> , the coverage factor for the CRM, $k=2.25$ and mean for $n=9$ replicates and corresponding standard deviation for the replicate data. ....	21
<b>Table 8.</b> Mass of assay sample and corresponding limit of detection and limit of quantitation for an assay microbalance capability of smallest prill mass of $1\mu\text{g}$ or $0.001\text{mg}$ . ....	23
<b>Table 9.</b> Recommended reporting scheme for LOD and LOQ in fire assay.....	23
<b>Table 10.</b> T-distribution table for t-critical values (t crit.) for a two-tailed t-test at a 95% level of confidence. ....	24

## LIST OF APPENDICES

<b>Appendix 1:</b> Uncertified Element Statistics.....	15
<b>Appendix 2.</b> Certification of Reference Material and Estimation of Measurement Uncertainty.....	16
<b>Appendix 3.</b> Example: Comparison of Mean and Certified Value for Validation of Accuracy .....	20
<b>Appendix 4.</b> Using the CRM in Quality Control.....	21
<b>Appendix 5.</b> Conversion to Air-dry Basis .....	22
<b>Appendix 6.</b> Example of Determination of LOD and LOQ in Fire Assay .....	23
<b>Appendix 7.</b> T-distribution table .....	24

## SUMMARY STATISTICS

### *Recommended Concentrations and Limits (at two Standard Deviations)*

#### *Certified Concentrations*

Analyte	<sup>8</sup> Certified( $\mu$ )	<sup>10</sup> Two Standard deviation (2s) $\pm$	Unit
Au	0.38	0.03	g/t
Cu	528	24	ppm
LOI	8.71	0.65	%
S	0.46	0.03	%
SG	2.79	0.22	Dimensionless

#### Major Oxides

### *Certified Concentrations (at two Standard Deviations)*

Analyte	<sup>8</sup> Certified( $\mu$ )	<sup>10</sup> Two Standard deviation (2s) $\pm$	Unit
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	11.34	0.132	%
CaO	5.38	0.15	%
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	8.46	0.12	%
K <sub>2</sub> O	1.32	0.096	%
MgO	3.09	0.11	%
MnO	0.09	0.02	%
Na <sub>2</sub> O	3.08	0.16	%
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	0.185	0.015	%
SiO <sub>2</sub>	57.01	0.895	%
TiO <sub>2</sub>	0.83	0.02	%

# 1. Certified Concentrations and Uncertainties

AMIS0285 is a new standard material, developed and certified in August, 2017. Table 1 gives the certified concentrations, combined and expanded uncertainty for certified reference material. Table 2 shows the certified major oxides concentrations, two standard deviations, combined and expanded uncertainty.

**Table 1.** Certified concentrations, two standard deviations, combined and expanded uncertainty.

Analyte	Method	<sup>7</sup> Certified( $\mu$ )	<i>N</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>k</i>	% RSD	<sup>8</sup> Combined uncertainty ( $u_c$ )	<sup>9</sup> Two Standard deviation (2s) $\pm$	<sup>10</sup> Expanded uncertainty ( <i>U</i> ) $\pm$	Unit
Au	Pb collection <sup>1</sup>	0.38	13	101	2.18	4.5	0.02	0.03	0.04	g/t
Cu	4A_MICP <sup>2</sup>	528	7	55	2.45	2.3	12	24	30	ppm
LOI	LOI <sup>4</sup>	8.71	10	80	2.26	3.7	0.32	0.65	0.7	%
S	Comb/LECO <sup>5</sup>	0.46	7	53	2.45	3.0	0.01	0.03	0.03	%
SG	SG <sup>6</sup>	2.79	4	32	3.18	3.9	0.11	0.22	0.3	Dimensionless

**Table 2.** Certified major oxides concentrations, two standard deviations, combined and expanded uncertainty.

Analyte	Method	<sup>7</sup> Certified( $\mu$ )	<i>N</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>k</i>	% RSD	<sup>8</sup> Combined uncertainty ( $u_c$ )	<sup>9</sup> Two Standard deviation (2s) $\pm$	<sup>10</sup> Expanded uncertainty ( <i>U</i> ) $\pm$	Unit
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	XRF <sup>3</sup>	11.34	8	64	2.36	0.6	0.066	0.132	0.2	%
CaO	XRF <sup>3</sup>	5.38	10	76	2.26	1.3	0.073	0.15	0.2	%
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	XRF <sup>3</sup>	8.46	10	76	2.26	0.7	0.062	0.12	0.1	%
K <sub>2</sub> O	XRF <sup>3</sup>	1.32	9	68	2.31	3.7	0.048	0.096	0.1	%
MgO	XRF <sup>3</sup>	3.09	9	72	2.31	1.7	0.053	0.11	0.1	%
MnO	XRF <sup>3</sup>	0.09	8	64	2.36	5.5	0.02	0.02	0.05	%
Na <sub>2</sub> O	XRF <sup>3</sup>	3.08	8	63	2.36	2.6	0.080	0.16	0.2	%
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	XRF <sup>3</sup>	0.185	8	64	2.36	4.0	0.0073	0.015	0.02	%
SiO <sub>2</sub>	XRF <sup>3</sup>	57.01	10	80	2.26	0.8	0.448	0.895	1	%
TiO <sub>2</sub>	XRF <sup>3</sup>	0.83	10	77	2.26	1.1	0.01	0.02	0.02	%

- Pb collection is fire assay by lead collection*
- 4A\_MICP is a Multi-acid digestion with ICP finish*
- XRF is X-ray Fluorescence*
- LOI is loss On ignition*
- Comb/LECO is combustion infra-red analysis*
- SG is Specific Gravity*
- The certified value  $\mu$ , is an unweighted grand mean of the means of *N* accepted sets of data from different laboratories and *n* number of test sample replicates. The certified value is traceable to SI units and is reported on a dry basis.*
- The combined uncertainty of the certified value is the within-laboratory reproducibility standard deviation derived from the analysis of variance of results from *N* number of laboratories and *n* number of sample replicates.*
- The two standard deviations (2s) is calculated as for example:  $u_c \times 2 = 0.23 \times 2 = 0.46\%$ . See section 24, page 13 for recommended use in quality control.*
- Expanded uncertainty (*U*) at a confidence level of 95% is determined by multiplication of the combined uncertainty ( $u_c$ ) with a coverage factor (*k*) found from *N*-1 degrees of freedom (see Appendix 7 for *t*-distribution table). Example:  $U = 2.36 \times 0.23 = 0.54\%$ .*

## 2. Intended Use

AMIS0285 is a matrix matched Certified Reference Material, fit for use as a control sample in routine assay laboratory quality control when inserted within runs of test samples and measured in parallel to test samples. This material can also be used for method development, use as independent calibration verification check standard (*i.e.* if not used as a calibration standard in an instrument calibration), or for validation of accuracy in a method validation exercise (see Appendix 3). The recommend procedure for the use of this CRM as a control standard in laboratory quality control is to develop a Shewhart chart, where a mean value and corresponding 1, 2 and 3 standard deviations are derived from replicate measurements of the CRM (see Appendix 4). This CRM can also be used to assess inter-laboratory or instrument bias and establish within-laboratory precision and within-laboratory reproducibility. The certified concentrations and expanded uncertainty for this material are property values based on an inter-laboratory measurement campaign and reflect consensus results from the laboratories that participated in the exercise.

## 3. Abbreviations and Symbols

Abbreviations and symbols used in this document are shown in Table 3.

**Table 3.** Abbreviations, symbols and descriptions.

Abbreviation/Symbol	Description
Alpha ( $\alpha$ )	Significance level (denoted by alpha, ' $\alpha$ ') of 0.05 or 5%
ANOVA	Analysis of variance by statistical means
BIF	Banded iron formation
CRM	Certified reference material
$df$	Degrees of freedom, typically, $n-1$ , or $N-1$
$F_{calc}$	Calculated F statistic from ANOVA or Fisher's test
F-critical or $F_{crit}$	F-critical value from F-distribution table
GOI	Gain on ignition
$H_0$	Null hypothesis
$H_1$	Alternate hypothesis
g/t	Grams per tonne
$k$	Coverage factor, <i>e.g.</i> $k=2$ for 95% level of confidence
LOC	Level of confidence or confidence level
LOD	Limit of detection
LOQ	Limit of quantitation
LOI	Loss on ignition
MS	Mean squares (ANOVA)
MSb	Mean squares between(ANOVA)
MSw	Mean squares within (ANOVA)
$N$	Number of labs
$n$	Number of replicates
$\mu$	Property or certified value of a CRM

**Table 3:** Continued

Abbreviation/Symbol	Description
$p$	' $p$ -value' a measure of the strength of evidence against $H_0$
P	Total number of data points in ANOVA
ppm	Parts per million. Equivalent to g/t
RSD	Relative standard deviation usually expressed as % at a 68% LOC
Replicates	Replication is the repetition of an experimental condition so that the variability associated with an analysis can be estimated (ASTM E1847)
$s$	Standard deviation
$s_r$	Within laboratory repeatability as derived from ANOVA
$s_s$	Between laboratory standard deviation as derived from ANOVA
SS	Sum of squares in ANOVA
SST	Total variation in ANOVA
SSB	Between group (laboratory) variance
SSW	Within group (laboratory) variance
2s	Two times standard deviation
SI	Standard International system of units
$t_{calc}$	Calculated t statistic from a one-sample, two-tailed t-test
t-critical or $t_{crit}$	t-critical value at given alpha and degrees of freedom
Tonne	A metric ton, is a unit of mass equaling 1000 kilograms
=TINV(5%, $df$ )	MS Excel function for t-critical value at LOC 95% and $df$
$U$	Expanded uncertainty at a given k
$u$	Standard uncertainty at $k=1$
$u_c$	Combined standard uncertainty at $k=1$
$\mu\text{m}$	Micron, is an SI derived unit of length equaling $1 \times 10^{-6}$ of a meter

#### **4. Uncertified Concentration Values**

Appendix 1 gives uncertified concentrations for other elements present in the CRM.

#### **5. Units**

All results for major oxides are reported as oxides in percentages. All results for major elements analyses reported in percentages or ppm. Results for Au and the platinum group elements are reported in g/t or ppm. Specific gravity (SG) is the ratio of the density of a substance to the density of a reference substance, *i.e.* equivalently; it is the ratio of the mass of a substance to the mass of a reference substance for the same given volume. Since specific gravity is a ratio of densities its units are therefore dimensionless.

#### **6. Analytical and Physical Methods**

A complete list of analytical and physical methods as generic method codes with a brief description of the methods is available on the AMIS web site [www.amis.co.za](http://www.amis.co.za)

#### **7. Origin of Material**

This CRM is made from material supplied from the Sabodala Gold Mine, operated by the Teranga Gold Corporation. Sabodala gold mine is situated in Senega. The deposit is located within the Senegalese portion of the major Proterozoic-Birimian Kedougou-Kenieba Inlier, along the northeastern margin of the Archaean Leo Man shield. Gold mineralisation is hosted along the Sabodala Shear Zone; within

#### **8. Approximate Mineral and Chemical Composition**

The shear zone contains lozenges of undeformed basalt, metasediment, gabbro, and dolerite within mylonite and cataclastic breccias. Mineralization is focused in shallow-dipping to flat-lying dilational breccia zones within the shear zone. Gold mineralization is late phase and is associated with quartz, sericite, ankerite/siderite veining and orange coloured silicalbite-carbonate-pyrite alteration. Hangingwall rocks comprise basalt and intrusive dolerite and gabbro. The primary sulphide present is pyrite with minor chalcopyrite. Gold is generally fine grained.

#### **9. Health and Safety**

The material is a very fine powder coloured Light Brownish Gray 5YR 6/2. Safety precautions for handling fine particulate matter are recommended, such as the use of safety glasses, breathing protection, gloves and a laboratory coat.

#### **10. Method of Preparation**

The particle size distribution for this material was shown to have a nominal top size of 54µm (95% passing 54µm). The procedure of preparation in brief is as follows: the material was crushed, dry-milled and air-classified to <54µm. It was then blended in a bi-conical mixer, systematically divided and sealed into 1kg Laboratory Packs. Explorer Packs are then subdivided from the Laboratory Packs as required. Final packaged units were then selected on a random basis and submitted for analysis to an independent laboratory accredited with the ISO17025:2005 standard of general requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories. The results obtained from this laboratory are then evaluated statistically by AMIS for homogeneity.



## 11. Handling

The material is packaged in Laboratory Packs and Explorer Packs that must be shaken or otherwise agitated before use. The analyte concentrations are quoted on a dry basis, therefore the user needs to determine the moisture content in order to convert any obtained assay values to an air-dry basis (see Appendix 5 for an example calculation).

## 12. Methods of Analysis Requested

1. Au by Pb collection with ICP-OES or ICP-MS finish (If finish is different, please specify)
2. Majors ( $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{CaO}$ ,  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{K}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{MgO}$ ,  $\text{MnO}$ ,  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{TiO}_2$ ,  $\text{U}_3\text{O}_8$ ,  $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$ , LOI) XRF fusion **or** fusion/4 acid digest finished with ICP/AAS finish
3. Multi element scan to include Cu-4-acid total digestion, including HF **or** fusion finished with ICP-OES or ICP-MS or AAS
4. SG – gas pycnometer
5. S Combustion/LECO

## 13. Information Requested of Participating Laboratories

The following information was requested of the participating laboratories for the development of this CRM:

1. State aliquots used for all determinations.
2. All Au results to be reported in ppb.
3. All results for major elements to be reported as oxides in percentages.
4. All results for multi-element scans to be reported in ppm.
5. Report all QC data, to include replicates, blanks and certified reference materials used.
6. State and provide brief description of analytical techniques used.
7. Send a PDF and excel of the results. (Excel template format was sent to the labs. If you have not received it, please email Melesha and she will send it through)

## 14. Certification of Mean and Estimation of Measurement Uncertainty

The samples used in this certification process have been selected in such a way as to represent the entire batch of material and were taken from the final packaged units; therefore all possible sources of uncertainty are included in the combined standard uncertainty determination. Initially the data submitted by all of the laboratories are subjected to a z-score test, equation [1] to exclude outliers and the remaining data sets examined for their normality in distribution. This is followed by the exclusion of further outliers as defined by the IUPAC Harmonised Protocol of 1995 in which both Cochran and Grubbs tests are applied until all outliers are identified, equations [2], [3], [4] and [5]. A grand mean and standard deviation is re-calculated using all remaining data (Thompson, 2008; Carr, 2011) (see

**Appendix 2).** These data are then subjected to an analysis of variance (ANOVA) as per equations, [10],[11],[12],[13] and [14] in

**Appendix 2.** The mean squares for data within and between laboratories derived from ANOVA are used to compute the within-laboratory reproducibility, or combined standard uncertainty as shown in

**Appendix 2**, equation [15], [16] and [17]. The Horwitz function is applied to assess the performance of the data under consideration with respect to precision as relative standard deviation (equations [6], [7] and [8]). Should the ratio of the observed %RSD and a calculated %RSD be  $<2$ , the observed %RSD is accepted (Horwitz & Albert, 2006). A final certified value is then found by calculating a grand mean of equally weighted individual laboratory means [9] (ISO Guide 35, 2003; Barwick & Pritchard, 2011).

An uncertainty statement on AMIS certificates is typically presented as:

The expanded uncertainty ( $U$ ) is determined by multiplication of the combined uncertainty ( $u_c$ ) with a coverage factor ( $k$ ) found from  $N-1$  degrees of freedom and a t-critical value at a level of confidence of 95% (EURACHEM / CITAC Guide CG 4., (2012), (see Table 10, Appendix 7 for a t-critical table).  $N$  is the number of laboratory means used in the establishment of the certified value. Since the estimated values of the CRM approximate a normal distribution with combined uncertainty,  $u_c$ , the certified value of the CRM is understood to lie in the interval defined by  $U$  with a level of confidence of 95 % (Thompson & Lowthian, 2011).

**Appendix 2** gives detail on the principles used for certification of the reported assay values and estimation of measurement uncertainty.

### 15. Participating Laboratories

Twenty three laboratories were each given eight randomly selected packages of the CRM. Twenty one laboratories of the twenty three laboratories submitted results in time for certification.

The 21 laboratories that provided results timeously are:

1. ALS OMAC (Ireland)
2. ALS Chemex Laboratory Group Lima (Peru)
3. ALS Chemex Laboratory Group Johannesburg SA
4. ALS (Vancouver) - Analytical Laboratory Services - Vancouver, Canada
5. Antech Zimbabwe
6. ARGETEST
7. Bureau Veritas Minerals Ultra Trace Pty Ltd
8. Dorfner Anzplan Analysenzentrum und Anlagenplanungsgesellschaft mbH
9. Genalysis Laboratory Services (W Australia P)
10. Gumustas Mad. Ve Tic. A.S Testing Laboratory (Turkey)
11. Koza Altin Isletmeleri
12. MIMOSA Mine Laboratory Zimbabwe
13. Performance Laboratories Zimbabwe
14. Quality Labs Tanzania
15. Ready Lead Assay Laboratory
16. SGS Ahafo Ghana
17. SGS Ankara (Turkey)
18. SGS South Africa
19. Shiva Analyticals India
20. UIS Analytical Services (pty) Ltd
21. SGS South Africa (Pty) Ltd - Barberton

## 16. Accepted Assay Data

Data from the 21 laboratories used for certification are set out in Table 4.

**Table 4.** Data used to calculate the certified values after removal of outliers.

Pb Collection Au %	Pb Collection Au %	4A-MICP Cu ppm	SG Dimensionless	Comb/LECO S %	LOI %	LOI %
0.38	0.38	520	2.84	0.49	8.59	8.34
0.39	0.39	530	2.83	0.47	8.66	9.02
0.38	0.39	535	2.82	0.48	8.64	8.97
0.38	0.40	535	2.83	0.47	8.64	9.03
0.38	0.39	520	2.88	0.47	8.75	9.04
0.38	0.38	535	2.80	0.47	8.91	9.04
0.38	0.39	535	2.81	0.45	8.75	9.02
0.38	0.40	530	2.83	0.47	9.05	9.04
0.38	0.37	530	2.63	0.46	8.62	9.00
0.37	0.39	539	2.63	0.45	8.61	8.44
0.38	0.38	533	2.67	0.45	8.56	8.42
0.38	0.38	506	2.67	0.47	8.57	8.43
0.37	0.39	529	2.62	0.47	8.62	8.44
0.38	0.39	537	2.62	0.46	8.59	8.43
0.37	0.39	534	2.67	0.46	8.57	8.40
0.38	0.38	493	2.66	0.46	8.58	8.46
0.40	0.43	527	2.79	0.48	9.47	8.41
0.36	0.34	527	2.80	0.44	9.38	8.68
0.36	0.35	528	2.78	0.45	9.38	8.76
0.36	0.36	541	2.81	0.45	9.37	8.84
0.40	0.38	527	2.79	0.48	9.43	8.71
0.36	0.43	539	2.78	0.44	9.43	8.68
0.36	0.42	539	2.81	0.45	9.39	8.73
0.39	0.35	535	2.80	0.46	9.41	8.69
0.40	0.37	524	2.97	0.44	8.60	8.69
0.40	0.35	522	2.82	0.45	8.80	
0.40	0.36	522	2.92	0.46	8.70	
0.40	0.41	525	2.91	0.45	8.80	
0.40	0.37	524	2.91	0.44	8.70	
0.40	0.37	524	2.93	0.48	8.80	
0.39	0.41	526	2.83	0.48	8.80	
0.39	0.39	521	2.87	0.47	8.70	
0.38	0.38	514		0.49	8.64	
0.38	0.39	514		0.49	8.64	
0.38	0.40	517		0.46	8.61	
0.38	0.39	513		0.45	8.56	
0.39	0.40	514		0.48	8.55	
0.39	0.39	514		0.44	8.62	
0.39	0.38	515		0.46	8.56	
0.39	0.36	516		0.46	8.68	
0.39	0.37	545		0.46	8.43	
0.40	0.35	554		0.46	8.51	
0.39	0.35	542		0.46	8.40	
0.39	0.41	497		0.46	8.36	
0.40	0.39	520		0.45	8.27	
0.40	0.39	553		0.45	8.12	
0.40		534		0.45	8.52	
0.37		534		0.45	8.56	
0.35		539		0.45	8.59	
0.40		541		0.47	8.52	
0.39		529		0.45	8.59	
0.38		534		0.47	8.46	
0.37		521		0.45	8.45	
0.36		530			8.28	
0.39		533			8.08	

Assay Data (Cont):

XRF Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> %	XRF CaO %	XRF Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> %	XRF K <sub>2</sub> O %	XRF MgO %	XRF MnO %	XRF Na <sub>2</sub> O %	XRF P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> %	XRF SiO <sub>2</sub> %	XRF TiO <sub>2</sub> %
11.28	5.36	8.45	1.33	3.06	0.10	3.11	0.18	57.24	0.84
11.26	5.35	8.46	1.33	3.06	0.09	3.11	0.18	57.32	0.84
11.28	5.39	8.51	1.34	3.08	0.10	3.13	0.18	57.51	0.84
11.24	5.34	8.34	1.32	3.02	0.09	3.00	0.18	56.74	0.82
11.36	5.41	8.47	1.34	3.06	0.09	3.04	0.18	57.34	0.84
11.34	5.41	8.44	1.34	3.06	0.10	3.03	0.18	57.30	0.84
11.38	5.44	8.49	1.34	3.07	0.10	3.05	0.18	57.46	0.84
11.28	5.39	8.41	1.33	3.04	0.09	3.02	0.18	57.06	0.84
11.32	5.42	8.41	1.33	3.04	0.09	3.16	0.19	57.00	0.84
11.30	5.42	8.41	1.33	3.04	0.09	3.17	0.19	57.08	0.84
11.35	5.42	8.43	1.33	3.05	0.09	3.16	0.19	57.16	0.85
11.35	5.41	8.41	1.34	3.04	0.09	3.17	0.19	57.12	0.84
11.34	5.40	8.41	1.33	3.04	0.10	3.16	0.19	57.03	0.85
11.34	5.41	8.40	1.34	3.04	0.09	3.17	0.19	57.11	0.84
11.35	5.41	8.42	1.33	3.05	0.09	3.16	0.19	57.18	0.85
11.30	5.39	8.38	1.34	3.03	0.09	3.16	0.19	57.13	0.84
11.35	5.51	8.36	1.36	3.16	0.10	2.95	0.19	56.49	0.83
11.42	5.49	8.39	1.38	3.20	0.10	3.02	0.19	56.59	0.83
11.44	5.48	8.39	1.37	3.20	0.10	3.05	0.19	56.57	0.82
11.42	5.48	8.39	1.38	3.20	0.10	3.05	0.19	56.46	0.83
11.42	5.49	8.32	1.39	3.15	0.10	3.04	0.19	56.48	0.83
11.40	5.48	8.33	1.37	3.20	0.10	3.07	0.19	56.44	0.83
11.41	5.42	8.59	1.37	3.19	0.10	3.12	0.19	56.53	0.83
11.41	5.40	8.49	1.37	3.18	0.10	3.07	0.19	56.52	0.83
11.31	5.41	8.50	1.31	3.13	0.09	3.11	0.18	56.33	0.84
11.27	5.41	8.44	1.30	3.17	0.10	3.10	0.18	56.54	0.84
11.31	5.41	8.44	1.28	3.17	0.10	3.12	0.18	56.41	0.84
11.31	5.41	8.44	1.28	3.15	0.10	3.14	0.18	56.47	0.84
11.24	5.43	8.44	1.26	3.15	0.09	3.09	0.18	56.55	0.85
11.34	5.41	8.46	1.26	3.16	0.10	3.11	0.18	56.42	0.84
11.27	5.24	8.48	1.26	3.17	0.09	3.10	0.18	56.52	0.84
11.30	5.23	8.47	1.25	3.16	0.09	3.09	0.18	56.48	0.84
11.28	5.24	8.57	1.34	3.06	0.09	3.05	0.20	57.11	0.82
11.31	5.26	8.38	1.33	3.06	0.09	3.02	0.20	56.90	0.82
11.30	5.26	8.49	1.34	3.07	0.09	3.09	0.19	57.10	0.83
11.34	5.23	8.42	1.34	3.08	0.09	3.09	0.19	57.31	0.83
11.22	5.28	8.43	1.33	3.05	0.09	3.05	0.19	56.84	0.82
11.40	5.27	8.46	1.34	3.08	0.09	3.11	0.20	57.26	0.83
11.38	5.30	8.41	1.33	3.05	0.09	3.09	0.19	56.87	0.82
11.32	5.31	8.48	1.33	3.06	0.09	3.08	0.19	56.96	0.82
11.40	5.26	8.53	1.20	3.06	0.10	3.20	0.19	56.50	0.83
11.40	5.34	8.41	1.22	3.03	0.09	3.24	0.19	56.32	0.82
11.40	5.34	8.57	1.20	3.05	0.10	3.19	0.19	56.61	0.83
11.40	5.33	8.55	1.22	3.06	0.09	3.23	0.19	56.92	0.83
11.40	5.35	8.54	1.22	3.03	0.10	3.24	0.18	56.20	0.82
11.40	5.36	8.45	1.22	3.08	0.09	3.14	0.19	57.14	0.83
11.40	5.35	8.48	1.35	3.06	0.10	3.23	0.19	57.03	0.84
11.40	5.34	8.49	1.35	3.07	0.10	2.95	0.19	56.81	0.83
11.33	5.37	8.51	1.35	3.07	0.09	2.94	0.19	56.60	0.83
11.30	5.38	8.55	1.36	3.07	0.09	2.97	0.19	56.70	0.82
11.38	5.33	8.51	1.35	3.07	0.09	3.00	0.19	56.80	0.83
11.43	5.33	8.46	1.34	3.08	0.09	2.97	0.19	56.70	0.82
11.50	5.45	8.47	1.34	3.05	0.09	2.96	0.19	56.80	0.83
11.36	5.45	8.44	1.35	3.10	0.09	2.99	0.19	56.90	0.83
11.41	5.44	8.48	1.35	3.10	0.09	2.97	0.19	56.60	0.83
11.53	5.41	8.43	1.35	3.11	0.09	3.03	0.19	56.60	0.83

## Assay Data (Cont):

XRF Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> %	XRF CaO %	XRF Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> %	XRF K <sub>2</sub> O %	XRF MgO %	XRF MnO %	XRF Na <sub>2</sub> O %	XRF P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> %	XRF SiO <sub>2</sub> %	XRF TiO <sub>2</sub> %
11.30	5.40	8.43	1.35	3.06	0.10	3.04	0.18	57.58	0.83
11.30	5.45	8.44	1.35	3.06	0.10	3.03	0.17	57.84	0.84
11.26	5.47	8.44	1.34	3.06	0.09	3.04	0.17	57.74	0.83
11.29	5.43	8.47	1.35	3.05	0.10	3.04	0.18	57.64	0.83
11.32	5.32	8.44	1.35	3.06	0.10	3.03	0.17	57.72	0.83
11.30	5.34	8.49	1.35	3.05	0.10	3.02	0.17	57.83	0.83
11.26	5.32	8.53	1.30	3.05	0.10	3.02	0.17	57.65	0.84
11.27	5.34	8.50	1.30	3.05	0.10		0.17	57.71	0.84
	5.34	8.54	1.32	3.12				57.30	0.84
	5.33	8.53	1.32	3.09				57.40	0.85
	5.33	8.49	1.32	3.08				57.24	0.84
	5.33	8.51	1.22	3.12				57.31	0.84
	5.32	8.53		3.15				57.52	0.84
	5.29	8.42		3.12				57.31	0.84
	5.36	8.49		3.11				57.26	0.85
	5.44	8.60		3.09				57.38	0.85
	5.51	8.57						57.82	0.83
	5.46	8.55						57.00	0.82
	5.46	8.46						56.66	0.84
	5.38	8.43						57.37	0.84
								57.68	0.84
								56.96	
								56.93	
								57.62	

## 17. Reported Values

The certified values listed in this certificate fulfil the AMIS statistical criteria (see section 14) regarding agreement for certification and have been independently validated by Allan Fraser.

## 18. Validation of Accuracy (Trueness)

This CRM can be used to validate accuracy (trueness) as required in method validation as stated in the ISO17025:2005 standard, clause 5.4. See Appendix 3 for an example on the validation of accuracy using replicate data derived from the analysis of a CRM.

## 19. Limit of Detection and Limit of Quantitation in Gravimetric Fire Assay

In the determination of limit of detection (LOD) and limit of quantitation (LOQ) in gravimetric fire assay (*i.e.* lead collection and weighing of resulting gold prill), the minimum mass that an assay microbalance is capable of weighing and the original test sample mass determines the LOD and the LOQ in the assay (Fraser, 2015), (see Appendix 6 for an example of the calculation LOD and LOQ and Table 9 for a recommend reporting scheme for LOD and LOQ values).

## 20. Metrological Traceability

The values quoted herein are based on the consensus values derived from statistical analysis of the data from an inter-laboratory measurement program. Traceability to SI units is via the standards used by the individual laboratories the majority of which are accredited to the ISO17025:2005 general requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories and who have maintained measurement traceability during the analytical process.

## 21. Period of Validity

The certified values are valid for this product, while still sealed in its original packaging, until notification to the contrary. The stability of the material will be subject to continuous testing for the duration of the inventory. Should product stability become an issue, all customers will be notified and notification to that effect will be placed on the [www.amis.co.za](http://www.amis.co.za) website.

## 22. Minimum Sample Size

The majority of laboratories reporting used a 0.5g sample size for the ICP-OES and a 30g sample size for the fire assay. These are the recommended minimum sample sizes for the use of this material.

## 23. Availability

This product is available in Laboratory Packs containing 1kg of material and Explorer Packs containing custom weights (from 50 to 250g) of material. The Laboratory Packs are sealed bottles delivered in sealed foil pouches. The Explorer Packs contain material in standard geochem envelopes, nitrogen flushed and vacuum sealed in foil pouches.

## 24. Recommended use in Quality Control

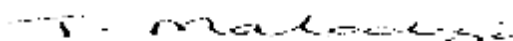
Users should set their own limits *i.e.* 1, 2 and 3 standard deviations from an obtained mean value based on at least 10 replicate analyses using this CRM (see Appendix 4 for detail on the use of this CRM in quality control).

## 25. Legal Notice

This certificate and the reference material described in it have been prepared with due care and attention. However AMIS, a division of Torre Analytical Services (Pty) Ltd, Thivhafuni Matodzi, and Allan Fraser; accept no liability for any decisions or actions taken following the use of the reference material.

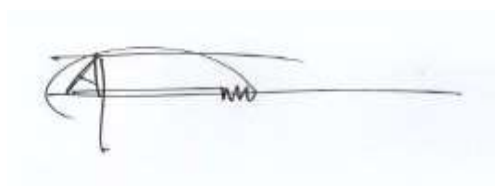
28 August 2017

Certifying Officers:



African Mineral Standards: \_\_\_\_\_

Thivhafuni Matodzi



Geochemist: \_\_\_\_\_

Allan Fraser  
M.Sc. (Geology), N.D. (Analytical Chem.), Pr.Sci.Nat.

## REFERENCES

- Abzalov, M. (2011). Sampling Errors and Control of Assay Data Quality in Exploration and Mining Geology, Applications and Experiences of Quality Control. Ivanov, O., (Ed.), InTech, DOI: 10.5772/14965. Available from: <http://www.intechopen.com/books/applications-and-experiences-of-quality-control/sampling-errors-and-control-of-assay-data-quality-in-exploration-and-mining-geology>. Accessed 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2016.
- ASTM E122-09e1, Standard Practice for Calculating Sample Size to Estimate, With Specified Precision, the Average for a Characteristic of a Lot or Process, ASTM International, West Conshohocken, PA, 2011, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org)
- Barwick V.J., Pritchard E. (Eds). (2011). Eurachem Guide; Terminology in Analytical Measurement – Introduction to VIM 3 (2011). ISBN 978-0-948926-29-7.
- Carr R.H. (2011). Estimating errors using graphs and taking good data. California State University Los Angeles. March 2011. 14. <http://web.calstatela.edu/faculty/kaniol/Err-Gph-Meas-IBooklet.pdf>. Retrieved: 29 August, 2016.
- Cochran, W.G. (1950). The Comparison of Percentages in Matched Samples. *Biometrika*, 37, 256-66.
- Ellison, S., Barwick, V., Duguid Farrant, T. (2009). *Practical statistics for the analytical scientist, a bench guide. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. RSC Publishing. 25-172.
- ERM Application Note 1. (2005). Comparison of a measurement value with a certified value. European Commission – Joint Research Centre Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (IRMM). 1-2.
- EURACHEM / CITAC Guide CG 4. (2012). Quantifying uncertainty in analytical measurement. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Editors: Ellison, S. L. R., Williams, A. 4-121.
- Eurolab Technical Report No.1/2007. (2007). Measurement uncertainty revisited: Alternative approaches to uncertainty evaluation. European Federation of National Associations of Measurement, Testing and Laboratories. 43-46.
- Fraser, A.W. (2015). Minimising uncertainty in measurement and improving limit of detection in gold bearing ores from concentrations predicted by linear regression in atomic absorption spectrometry. M.Sc. thesis (unpublished), University of Johannesburg: 199 pages.
- Grubbs, F.E. (1969). Procedures for detecting outlying observations in samples. *Technometrics*, 11, 1969. 1-21.
- Horwitz, W., Albert, R. (2006). The Horwitz Ratio (HorRat): A useful index of method performance with respect to precision, *Journal of Association of Official Analytical Chemists International*, 89: 1095-1109.
- ISO/IEC 17025:2005(E). (2005). *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition: 14-59.
- ISO Guide 35 (2003). Certification of reference materials — General and Statistical principles, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. ISO/REMCO WG 1.
- ISO 5725-2:1994. Accuracy (trueness and precision) of measurement methods and results -- Part 2: Basic method for the determination of repeatability and reproducibility of a standard measurement method.
- Long, J., Winefordner, J. (1983). Limit of detection - a closer look at the IUPAC definition. *Analytical Chemistry* 55: 712A - 724A.
- Miller, J., Miller, J. (2010). *Statistics for analytical chemistry*. 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. New York: Ellis Horwood. 36-126.
- Nelsen T.C., Wehling P. (2008). Collaborative studies for quantitative chemical analytical methods. AACC International Report. *Cereal Foods World*. September – October 2008, Vol. 53, No. 5. 285-288.
- Skoog, D., West, D. (1982). *Fundamentals of analytical chemistry*. 4th Edition. CBS College Publishing. Holt Saunders International Editions: 39-73.
- Thompson, M. (Ed.) (2008). Test for 'sufficient homogeneity' in a reference material. Analytical Methods Committee, AMCTB 17A, ISSN 1757-5958.
- Thompson, M. (Ed.) (2010). Internal quality control in routine analysis. AMC Technical Brief. Analytical Methods Committee. AMCTB No.46. 2010. Issn 1757-5958.
- Thompson, M., Lowthian, P. (2011). *Notes on statistics and data quality for analytical chemists*. Imperial College Press: 15-115.

## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1: Uncertified Element Statistics

Uncertified element statistics are shown in Table 5.

**Table 5.** Uncertified element concentrations statistics.

Element	Gen Method	N	Mean	s	RSD %	Unit
Ag	4A_MICP	8	0.200	<0.001	<0.001	ppm
Al	4A_MICP	40	47376.650	24008.760	50.676	ppm
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	FUS	16	5.669	5.856	103.285	%
As	4A_MICP	40	19.460	7.107	36.521	ppm
Au	4A_MICP	7	0.384	0.010	2.540	g/t
Au	FA_ICPES	7	0.433	0.008	1.746	g/t
Ba	4A_MICP	38	261.524	40.838	15.615	ppm
BaO	XRF	48	0.027	0.004	16.455	%
Be	4A_MICP	16	0.900	0.052	5.738	ppm
Bi	4A_MICP	13	0.114	0.012	10.478	ppm
Ca	4A_MICP	40	37424.600	1122.691	3.000	ppm
CaO	FUS	16	2.695	2.787	103.414	%
Cd	4A_MICP	8	0.126	0.012	9.408	ppm
Ce	4A_MICP	16	33.925	6.979	20.571	ppm
Co	4A_MICP	48	37.079	3.953	10.660	ppm
Cr	4A_MICP	40	198.175	32.746	16.524	ppm
Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	FUS	8	0.035	0.005	15.272	%
Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	XRF	69	0.038	0.004	10.589	%
Cs	4A_MICP	16	2.094	0.093	4.436	ppm
Cu	2A_MICP	16	541.250	15.893	2.936	ppm
CuO	XRF	8	0.070	0.005	7.636	%
Dy	4A_MICP	8	3.525	0.060	1.695	ppm
Er	4A_MICP	8	1.713	0.064	3.742	ppm
Eu	4A_MICP	8	1.075	0.038	3.516	ppm
Fe	4A_MICP	39	58707.692	1597.430	2.721	ppm
Fe	XRF	8	59075.000	128.174	0.217	ppm
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	FUS	16	4.228	4.367	103.296	%
Ga	4A_MICP	16	15.363	0.773	5.030	ppm
Gd	4A_MICP	8	3.700	0.107	2.889	ppm
Ge	4A_MICP	8	0.913	0.083	9.145	ppm
Hf	4A_MICP	16	2.306	0.300	13.005	ppm
Ho	4A_MICP	8	0.650	0.021	3.289	ppm
In	4A_MICP	15	0.060	0.004	6.299	ppm
K	4A_MICP	37	11142.595	521.429	4.680	ppm
K <sub>2</sub> O	FUS	16	0.642	0.666	103.761	%
La	4A_MICP	31	12.042	0.865	7.181	ppm
Li	4A_MICP	39	14.492	0.711	4.906	ppm
Lu	4A_MICP	8	0.243	0.017	6.883	ppm
Mg	4A_MICP	38	18153.368	568.927	3.134	ppm
MgO	FUS	16	1.648	1.703	103.324	%
Mn	4A_MICP	39	719.128	24.962	3.471	ppm
Mn	XRF	8	775.000	46.291	5.973	ppm
Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	XRF	8	0.103	0.005	4.516	%

Element	Gen Method	N	Mean	s	RSD %	Unit
MnO	FUS	16	0.046	0.049	104.973	%
Mo	4A_MICP	31	5.465	0.429	7.858	ppm
Na	4A_MICP	38	23205.579	736.188	3.172	ppm
Na <sub>2</sub> O	FUS	8	2.886	0.068	2.364	%
Nb	4A_MICP	16	5.850	0.860	14.705	ppm
Nd	4A_MICP	8	14.875	0.271	1.823	ppm
Ni	4A_MICP	45	69.538	2.702	3.885	ppm
P	4A_MICP	29	791.931	19.882	2.511	ppm
P	XRF	8	800.000	<0.001	<0.001	ppm
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	FUS	8	<0.001	<0.001	3.436	%
Pb	4A_MICP	31	6.935	2.294	33.076	ppm
PbO	XRF	6	0.013	0.005	38.730	%
Pd	Pb Collection	6	0.005	<0.001	<0.001	g/t
Pr	4A_MICP	8	3.513	0.079	2.256	ppm
Pt	Pb Collection	5	0.005	<0.001	<0.001	g/t
Rb	4A_MICP	16	32.919	1.237	3.759	ppm
S	4A_MICP	23	0.474	0.011	2.263	%
Sb	4A_MICP	16	0.938	0.072	7.667	ppm
Sc	4A_MICP	30	19.010	0.463	2.438	ppm
SiO <sub>2</sub>	FUS	16	28.240	29.163	103.265	%
Sm	4A_MICP	7	3.550	0.041	1.150	ppm
Sn	4A_MICP	16	1.106	0.118	10.680	ppm
SO <sub>3</sub>	XRF	39	1.197	0.111	9.288	%
Sr	4A_MICP	37	114.708	6.406	5.585	ppm
SrO	XRF	40	0.016	0.005	31.787	%
Ta	4A_MICP	15	0.369	0.034	9.276	ppm
Tb	4A_MICP	8	0.500	0.019	3.703	ppm
Te	4A_MICP	16	0.375	0.045	11.926	ppm
Th	4A_MICP	24	27.018	36.819	136.274	ppm
Ti	4A_MICP	40	0.380	0.103	26.968	%
TiO <sub>2</sub>	FUS	16	0.428	0.444	103.799	%
Tl	4A_MICP	16	0.148	0.037	24.923	ppm
Tm	4A_MICP	8	0.275	0.014	5.143	ppm
U	4A_MICP	15	0.638	0.039	6.105	ppm
V	4A_MICP	45	169.620	14.534	8.568	ppm
V <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	XRF	16	0.030	<0.001	<0.001	%
W	4A_MICP	29	10.397	0.450	4.328	ppm
Y	4A_MICP	32	14.066	2.893	20.571	ppm
Yb	4A_MICP	8	1.719	0.026	1.506	ppm
Zn	4A_MICP	46	62.683	2.586	4.126	ppm
ZnO	XRF	6	0.010	<0.001	<0.001	%
Zr	4A_MICP	40	90.700	23.869	26.316	ppm
ZrO <sub>2</sub>	XRF	15	0.020	<0.001	<0.001	%

.....



## Appendix 2. Certification of Reference Material and Estimation of Measurement Uncertainty (Prepared by Allan Fraser)

In the establishment of a consensus value for the CRM, outlier tests are carried out followed by performance statistics and the estimation of the measurement uncertainty. In practice, it is highly likely that data generated by multiple laboratories as an inter-laboratory comparison of material for certification, will contain erroneous as well as extreme measurements (outliers). The influence of outliers on summary statistics needs to be minimised by the application of procedures for outlier identification on raw data. The application of z-scoring, Cochran test for suspect repeatability variances, along with Grubbs test as single and paired tests for suspect measurement values allows for the detection of outliers (IUPAC, 1995).

Method performance in terms of precision as relative standard deviation is judged by the application of the Horwitz ratio, which gives an indication of whether the observed relative standard deviation at the concentration levels of analyte determined are acceptable (Horwitz & Albert, 2006).

In the absence of an extensive uncertainty budget, measurement uncertainty is estimated from the reproducibility standard deviation from inter-laboratory data and reported as an expanded uncertainty at typically a level of confidence of 95% (Miller & Miller, 2010).

The steps below give detail on the establishment of a consensus value through the elimination of outliers, method performance and estimation of measurement uncertainty using standard uncertainties and the analysis of variance.

### Outlier Removal

An initial purge of outliers in inter-laboratory analyses of a candidate reference material is done using z-scoring followed by the exclusion of further outliers as defined by the IUPAC Harmonised Protocol of 1995. Here both Cochran and Grubbs tests are applied until all outliers are identified.

### Z-Score

A z-score is calculated using equation [1]:

$$z = \frac{x - x_a}{s_p} \quad [1]$$

Where,  $x$  is the result of a submitted sample,  $x_a$  is the mean and  $s_p$  is the standard deviation of the submitted results from all of the participating laboratories. Z-Scores are interpreted as follows:

$|z| \leq 2$  satisfactory performance  
 $2 < |z| \leq 3$  questionable performance  
 $|z| > 3$  unsatisfactory performance

(Thompson & Lowthian, 2011)

Data with z-scores exceeding 2 are discarded and are not included for further assessment.

### Cochran Test

The test of Cochran (1950) as shown in equation [2] is applied to any suspect repeatability variances:

$$C_{calc} = \frac{s_{max}^2}{\sum_{i=1}^l s_i^2} \quad [2]$$

Where,  $C_{calc}$ ,  $s_{max}^2$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^l s_i^2$ , are the calculated values for Cochran's test, data set with the maximum variance and the sum of the variances of all of the participating  $l$  laboratory datasets. The  $C_{calc}$  value is compared with a critical value,  $C_{crit}$  at a level of confidence of 95% and an alpha of 0.05% (see Ellison,

et al., 2009, Appendix A, Table A.3a, page 209 for a table of critical values for the test of Cochran at LOC 95%).

According to ISO 5725-2 (1999), results from a laboratory with a suspect repeatability variance can be excluded if it is shown by the Cochran test to be an outlier. Therefore, if  $C_{calc} > C_{crit}$ , the laboratory with the maximum variance is removed. The data found to be excluded should not be >2/9, or 22% of the total data.

### Grubbs Test

The test of Grubbs (1969) calculates a test statistic, G. In the detection of a single outlier,  $G_1$  is found by using

$$G_{1\text{ calc}} = \frac{|\text{Suspect value} - \bar{x}|}{s} \quad [3]$$

where the sample mean and standard deviation,  $\bar{x}$  and s, are calculated with the suspect value included. The  $G_{1\text{ calc}}$  statistic is compared to a critical value for N measurements. See Ellison, et al., 2009, Appendix A, Table A.2, page 208 for a table of critical values for the test of Cochran at LOC 95%. If the data set contains two or more suspect values at either the high end of the dataset or at the low end, or at both ends of the data range, the Grubbs test is adapted to detect such outliers by the calculation of  $G_{2\text{ calc}}$

$$G_{2\text{ calc}} = \frac{|x_n - x_1|}{s} \quad [4]$$

where,  $x_n$  and  $x_1$  are the suspect values that occur at the opposite ends of the dataset.

When there are two suspect values at the at the same end of the dataset two separate standard deviations of all of the data,  $s^*$  is the standard deviation of the data with the two suspect values excluded with  $G_{3\text{ calc}}$  given by:

$$G_{3\text{ calc}} = \frac{(n-3)s^*}{(n-1)s^2} \quad [5]$$

### Method Performance

The Horwitz function is used to assess the performance of the data under consideration, with respect to precision (Horwitz & Albert, 2006). A calculated %RSD is found using the Horwitz expression

$$\%RSD = \pm 2^{(1-0.5\log C)} \quad [6]$$

where, C is the analyte concentration in percent divided by 100 and log is the natural logarithm. The observed %RSD is calculated as

$$\text{Observed \%RSD} = \frac{s}{\text{Mean}} \times 100 \quad [7]$$

where s is the standard deviation of n replicates.

The ratio of the observed %RSD and the calculated %RSD gives the Horwitz ratio (HorRat):

$$\text{HorRat} = \frac{\%RSD\text{ Observed}}{\%RSD\text{ Calculated}} \quad [8]$$

A HorRat <2 indicates that the method is of adequate precision. Should the HorRat be >2 the overall data are discarded and the candidate material considered not suitable for certification as the precision is excessive for the concentration of the analyte being determined (Nelsen & Wehling, 2008).

### Grand Mean

The grand mean ( $\bar{\bar{x}}$ ) i.e. the certified value of a dataset is the total of all the data values divided by the total sample size ( $n$ ) :

$$\bar{\bar{x}} = \sum \frac{x}{n} \quad [9]$$

### Certified Value

From ANOVA as per the description in section 14, an 'appropriate precision' as shown in [10] is calculated for sufficient homogeneity (Thompson, 2008):

$$s_r \leq 0.3u_c \quad [10]$$

Where,  $s_r$  is the within laboratory repeatability, as determined from [16]. Once [10] is satisfied, a grand mean [9] is calculated and this is taken to be the certified value.

### Total Variation (SST)

The total variation (not the variance) comprises the sum of the squares of the differences of each mean with the grand mean.

$$SST = \sum (x - \bar{\bar{x}})^2 \quad [11]$$

### Between Group Variation (SSB)

The *variation* due to the interaction between the laboratories is denoted SSB or Sum of Squares Between laboratories and given by [12]. If the laboratory means are close to each other (and therefore the Grand Mean) SSB will be a small value. There are P samples involved with one datum value for each sample (the sample mean), so there are P-1 degrees of freedom.

$$SSB = \sum n(\bar{x} - \bar{\bar{x}})^2 \quad [12]$$

The *variance* due to the interaction between the laboratories is denoted MSB for Mean Square Between groups and is the SSB divided by its degrees of freedom.

$$MS = \frac{SSB}{n - 1} \quad [13]$$

### Within Group Variation (SSW)

The variation due to differences within individual samples is denoted SSW for Sum of Squares Within laboratories. The degrees of freedom are equal to the sum of the individual degrees of freedom for each sample. Since each sample has degrees of freedom ( $df$ ) equal to one less than their sample sizes, and there are  $k$  samples, the total degrees of freedom is P less than the total sample size:  $df = n - P$ .

$$SSW = \sum df \cdot s^2 \quad [14]$$

The variance due to the differences within individual samples is denoted MSW for Mean Square Within groups. This is the within group variation divided by its degrees of freedom:

$$MSW = \frac{SSW}{P - n} \quad [15]$$

From equations [9] through [15], the ANOVA table as shown in Table 6 is developed.

**Table 6.** A single-factor ANOVA table showing key elements. Where P is the total number of groups, or laboratories. P-1 is 1 less than number of laboratories, P (n-1) is the number of data values minus number of groups (equals degrees of freedom for each group added together), and P-1 + P(n-1) is 1 less than number of data points. MS is the mean squares of between laboratories and within laboratories. After Ellison *et al.*, (2009), Table 6.2, page 61.

Source	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Sum of Squares	F	p	F <sub>crit</sub>
Between Laboratories	SSB	P-1	MSB=SSB/df	MSB/MSW	=FDIST(x,df,df)	F-table
Within Laboratories	SSW	P(n-1)	MSW=SSW/df	–	–	–
Total	SSB+SSW	P-1 + P(n-1)	–	–	–	–

### Combined Standard Uncertainty

The combined standard uncertainty ( $u_c$ ) represents the effects of random events such as days, instruments, and analysts on the precision of the analytical procedures of all accepted data of the participating laboratories. Using the output from ANOVA, the combined standard uncertainty ( $u_c$ ) is determined from the square root of the sum of squares of the variances of the within laboratory repeatability,  $s_r$  and the between laboratory precision,  $s_s$ :

$$u_c = \sqrt{s_r^2 + s_s^2} \quad [16]$$

Within laboratory repeatability is determined as

$$s_r = \sqrt{MSB} \quad [17]$$

and, the between laboratory precision as

$$s_s = \sqrt{\frac{(MSW - MSB)}{n}} \quad [18]$$

where  $MSW$  is the mean squares of the within laboratory variance,  $MSB$  is the mean squares for the between laboratories and  $n$  in this case, is the number of replicates in a group of the accepted data (Thompson & Lowthian, 2011).

### Expanded Uncertainty

The expanded uncertainty ( $U$ ) at a confidence level of 95% is determined by multiplication of the combined uncertainty ( $u_c$ ) by a coverage factor ( $k$ ) found from  $N-1$  degrees of freedom ( $df$ ), where  $N$  is the number of laboratory means accepted in the establishment of the certified value. The t-critical value for 5% significance can be found in a t-critical table (see Appendix 7, or from MS Excel as =TINV (5%,  $df$ )).

## Uncertainty Statement

Typically, an uncertainty statement is presented as follows:  $Au = 0.77 \pm 0.04$  g/t, where the number following the symbol  $\pm$  is the numerical value of an expanded uncertainty,  $U = ku_c$ , with  $U$  determined from a combined standard uncertainty multiplied by a coverage factor  $k = 2$  or, a t-critical value for  $N-1$  accepted laboratories. Since it can be assumed that the possible estimated values of the standard are approximately normally distributed with standard uncertainty,  $u_c$ , the certified value of the CRM is believed to lie in the interval defined by  $U$  with a level of confidence of approximately 95 %, e.g. a mean value of  $0.77 \pm 0.04$  g/t will have intervals of:  $0.73 < 0.77 < 0.81$  g/t.

### Appendix 3. Example: Comparison of Mean and Certified Value for Validation of Accuracy (Prepared by Allan Fraser)

According to ERM (2005); Eurolab (2007); Abzalov (2011) and Carr (2011), the validation of accuracy for a given mean and certified value requires the inclusion of the measurement uncertainty of the CRM in a t-test for statistical significance. The classical Student's t-test as shown in [19], does not take into account the measurement uncertainty of the CRM. To compensate for this, Eurolab Technical Report No.1/2007 recommends equation [20] for the validation of CRMs with stated measurement uncertainties.

$$t_{calc} = \frac{|\bar{x} - \mu|}{\frac{s}{\sqrt{n}}} \quad [19]$$

$$t_{calc} = \frac{|\bar{x} - \mu|}{\sqrt{(u_\mu)^2 + \frac{s^2}{n}}} \quad [20]$$

Where,  $t_{calc}$  is the calculated t-statistic,  $\bar{x}$  the mean of  $n$  replicates with a standard deviation of  $s$  for a CRM of  $\mu$  certified value. The standard uncertainty  $u$  is the stated expanded uncertainty ( $U$ ) of the CRM divided by the coverage factor ( $k$ ) as stated on the certificate of analysis. Note that the  $| \quad |$  bars indicate that the absolute value between the mean and the certified value is to be used, *i.e.* ignore the sign.

An example in which [20] is used for validation of accuracy is given below.

#### Example

A CRM is independently replicated nine times for  $Al_2O_3$  concentration by XRF analysis, *i.e.* 9 individual fused glass beads were prepared. The observed mean and standard deviation of the replicate data are shown with the certified value and expanded uncertainty in Table 7. In validation of accuracy, the hypothesis question is: Is the difference between the observed mean and the certified value statistically significant at a level of confidence of 95%? Alternatively put, is there sufficient evidence to conclude that the data *i.e.* replicates generated, are inaccurate?

The relevant hypotheses are:

**Null hypothesis:**  $H_0$ : Mean = Certified value of CRM with stated measurement uncertainty. The acceptance of  $H_0$  means that accuracy is demonstrated; *i.e.* insufficient evidence to reject  $H_0$ ;

**Alternate hypothesis:**  $H_1$ : Mean  $\neq$  Certified value of CRM with stated measurement uncertainty. The acceptance of  $H_1$  means that accuracy is not demonstrated, *i.e.* there is sufficient evidence to accept  $H_1$ ;

**Table 7.** CRM certified value, quoted expanded uncertainty  $U$ , the coverage factor for the CRM,  $k=2.25$  and mean for  $n=9$  replicates and corresponding standard deviation for the replicate data.

CRM Certified Value	Expanded Uncertainty ( $U$ )	Coverage Factor ( $k$ )	Mean ( $n=9$ )	$n$	Standard Deviation ( $s$ )
4.62%	0.08%	2.25	4.59	9	0.01015

The standard uncertainty ( $u$ ) is found by dividing the expanded uncertainty by the coverage factor:

$$u = \frac{0.08}{2.25} = 0.0356 \%$$

Using the observed mean for the replicate data ( $n=9$ ) obtained for the CRM and substituting into [20]:

$$t_{calc} = \frac{|\bar{x} - \mu|}{\sqrt{0.0356^2 + \frac{0.01015^2}{9}}} = \frac{|4.59 - 4.62|}{\sqrt{0.00126 + 0.00001145}} = 0.84$$

Therefore,  $t_{calc} = 0.84$  and  $t_{crit}(5\%, 8) = 2.31$  ( $df$  is 8, therefore,  $t_{crit}=2.31$ , see Appendix 7, page 24) which is  $>0.84$ . Similarly, the  $p$ -value=0.43 which is  $>0.05$ . This is strong evidence in favour of accepting the null hypothesis that there is no significant statistical difference between the certified value and the observed mean. Therefore, under the conditions that the uncertainty associated with the certified value is known the accuracy is validated for the CRM tested. If the null hypothesis is accepted that the mean obtained is not statistically different from the certified value, then the principle of traceability has been conformed to.

.....

**Appendix 4.** Using the CRM in Quality Control  
(Prepared by Allan Fraser)

QC chart control limits should not be determined by the certified value and stated measurement uncertainty of the certified reference material used. These parameters although “certified” will never be known; it is only the corresponding statistical estimates, *i.e.* standard deviation and the mean calculated from replicated results that are known and these should be used in quality control charts. However, should the laboratory chose to use the certified value as the mean then the quoted 2s value for the CRM can be used in the quality control chart.

It is recommended that a Shewhart chart be developed for the use if this CRM is to be used as a control sample in laboratory quality control. A Shewhart chart is a plot of sequential assay results obtained from quality control material such as an AMIS CRM. The warning and control limits are based on the standard deviation obtained from the mean of the replicates of a CRM (Ellison, *et al.*, 2009; Thompson, 2010).The procedure in preparing a Shewhart chart is as follows:

1. Analyse 10 to15 replicates or more of the AMIS CRM;
2. Apply the Grubbs test for outliers;
3. Determine the mean of the replicates after application of the Grubbs test;
4. Determine the standard deviation, using equation [21], of the replicates;
5. Calculate the standard deviation,  $s$  from:

$$s = \sqrt{\frac{\sum(x_i - \bar{x})^2}{n - 1}} \quad [21]$$

where,  $x_i$  is an individual measurement in the data set,  $\bar{x}$  is the mean of the data set at  $n-1$  degrees of freedom ( $df$ ) and  $n$  is the number of replicates. The sample standard deviation can be found using the MS Excel formula “=stdev.s (number1;)”.

6. Verify accuracy of the mean value using equation [20];
7. Once accuracy is verified, calculate  $\pm 2s$  and  $\pm 3s$ , where  $s$  is the standard deviation calculated from [21].
8. Construct the Shewhart control chart around the mean of  $n$  replicates;
9. Use  $\pm 2s$  as the warning limits;
10. Use  $\pm 3s$  as the control limits;
11. It is recommended that if 2 to 3 points are outside warning the limits analyse another sample and if it then within warning limits, continue. If it is outside the warning limits, stop and troubleshoot;
12. It is recommend that if any point is outside control limits, analyse another portion (sample) of the CRM. If it is within control limits, continue. If it is outside control limits, stop and troubleshoot;
13. For reference purposes, the CRM certified value can be plotted on the Shewhart chart alongside the mean value.

On a regular basis the accuracy of the replicates of the CRM should be assessed in terms of the certified value of the CRM using equation [20].

.....

**Appendix 5. Conversion to Air-dry Basis**  
(Prepared by Allan Fraser)

Since AMIS certified analyte values are reported on a dry-basis, the user laboratory is required to dry a portion (accurately weigh out 1.0 grams in duplicate) of the CRM material in air at 105°C in a drying oven to constant mass to determine the moisture content. Use a crucible with a flat inner surface with a surface area not smaller than 10 cm<sup>2</sup> with the CRM material spread evenly over same; this represents a 0.1 gram spread per cm<sup>2</sup>. In correcting the certified value for moisture content, a moisture correction factor is calculated:

$$\text{Moisture correction factor (MCF)} = \frac{100 - \% \text{Moisture at } 105^{\circ}C}{100} \quad [22]$$

$$\text{Air dry basis concentration} = \text{MCF} \times \text{certified value on a dry basis} \quad [23]$$

**Example**

The moisture content determined at 105°C on a CRM is 0.500%. The certified analyte concentration for the CRM is 12.62±0.52% (dry basis). Calculating the moisture correction factor using [22] gives:

$$\text{Moisture correction factor} = \frac{100 - 0.500}{100} = 0.995$$

Multiplying the factor of 0.995 by the certified value as stated on the certificate of analysis on a dry basis (as in [23]) gives the analyte concentration on an air-dry basis:

$$0.995 \times 12.62\% = 12.56\%$$

The stated measurement uncertainty also needs to be corrected using [22] and [23], e.g.  $0.995 \times 0.52 = 0.51_{(7)}$ , rounded to 0.52%. The air-dry basis concentration *i.e.*  $12.56 \pm 0.52\%$  is to be used as the certified value with its corresponding measurement of uncertainty.

**Appendix 6.** Example of Determination of LOD and LOQ in Fire Assay  
Prepared by Allan Fraser

The limit of detection (LOD) is the minimum detectable quantity of the analyte of interest (Skoog & West, 1985). In order to determine the LOD in fire assay by lead collection, the minimum mass that an assay microbalance is capable of weighing ( $m$  in micrograms, and the original test sample mass,  $Mass_{assay}$  in grams) determines the LOD. The smallest prill mass most assay microbalances can measure is  $1\mu\text{g}$  or  $0.001\text{mg}$ . Even with a microscope it may be difficult to locate and pick up a prill weighing ten times that amount (*i.e.*  $0.01\text{mg}$  or  $10\mu\text{g}$ ) and weigh it. Assuming that an analyst can weigh a prill of  $1\mu\text{g}$  then the LOD becomes  $1\mu\text{g}$ . However, the concentration factor would be 50 times for a 50 gram assay sample and therefore the LOD in g/t becomes  $1\mu\text{g}$  divided by the original mass of the sample in grams taken for fire assay [24]. Therefore, the LOD in fire assay is computed as:

$$LOD = \frac{m (\mu\text{g})}{Mass_{assay} (g)} (\text{g/t}) \quad [24]$$

And, the limit of quantitation (LOQ), is simply the LOD multiplied by 10 (Long & Winefordner, 1983):

$$LOQ = 10 \cdot \frac{m (\mu\text{g})}{Mass_{assay} (g)} (\text{g/t}) \quad [25]$$

Therefore, with a sample mass of 50g taken for fire assay, the limit of detection would be  $0.02\text{g/t}$ . *i.e.*  $1\mu\text{g} = 1\text{g/t}$ , therefore  $1\mu\text{g}/50\text{g} = 0.02\text{g/t}$ . If no prill was found to be weighed then the LOD result would be  $<0.02\text{g/t}$  or “not detected”. Table 9 gives a recommended reporting scheme for LOD and LOQ.

**Table 8.** Mass of assay sample and corresponding limit of detection and limit of quantitation for an assay microbalance capability of smallest prill mass of  $1\mu\text{g}$  or  $0.001\text{mg}$ .

Mass Assay Sample (g)	LOD (g/t)	LOQ (g/t)
30	0.03	0.3
50	0.02	0.2
100	0.01	0.1

**Table 9.** Recommended reporting scheme for LOD and LOQ in fire assay.

Data	Report as
<LOD	Not detected
<LOQ	Detected
$\geq$ LOQ	Report assay result

.....



**Appendix 7. T-distribution table**

Table 10. T-distribution table for t-critical values (t crit.) for a two-tailed t-test at a 95% level of confidence.

<b>df</b>	<b>Two-tailed</b>	<b>df</b>	<b>Two-tailed</b>
1	12.71	23	2.06
2	4.30	24	2.06
3	3.18	25	2.06
4	2.78	26	2.05
5	2.57	27	2.05
6	2.44	28	2.04
7	2.36	29	2.04
8	2.30	30	2.04
9	2.26	35	2.03
10	2.22	40	2.02
11	2.20	45	2.01
12	2.17	50	2.00
13	2.16	55	2.00
14	2.14	60	2.00
15	2.13	70	1.99
16	2.12	80	1.98
17	2.11	90	1.98
18	2.10	100	1.98
19	2.09	120	1.98
20	2.08	Infinity	1.96
21	2.08		
22	2.07		

.....