

Appendix VIII: Determination of Foreign Matter

Foreign matter is material consisting of any of the following –

- (1) The biological origin of which is the same as that specified in the monograph concerned but the appearance or botanical part is different.
- (2) The biological origin of which differs from that specified in the monograph concerned.
- (3) Foreign mineral matters such as stones, sand, lumps of soil.

Method and Procedure –

- (1) Weigh 100 - 500 g of CMM sample and spread in a thin layer. Sort the foreign matter into groups either by visual inspection, using a magnifying lens (5-10×), or with the help of a suitable sieve.
- (2) Weigh each group of foreign matter separately, and calculate the percentage of foreign matter in the weight of CMM sample.

Note 1: In case of close resemblance between the foreign matters and the bulk sample in appearance, use microscopic, physical or chemical methods to identify the foreign matter.

Note 2: For large-sized sample, cut it off when necessary, so as to examine any signs of spoilt or contamination by insects and moulds.

Limits – The amount of foreign matter in CMM samples should not be more than the percentage specified in the individual monograph.