Appendix I: Sampling

The sampling here refers to the method used for selecting CMM sample for examination. As the representativeness of sampling directly affects the conclusions of the examination, recommended sampling procedures are detailed in the following paragraphs for reference.

(1) Before sampling, it is necessary to inspect each container or package to see whether the name, source, specification and packaging of CMM are correct. Examine the intactness, cleanliness and any water trace of the package. Check any contamination by moulds or of foreign matter, and make detailed notes. Any abnormal package should be sampled separately.

(2) The following are the general requirements for random CMM sampling in a consignment –

(a)	For packages less than five	: sample every package
(b)	For packages of 5-99	: sample five packages
(c)	For packages of 100-1000	: sample 5%
(d)	For packages over 1000	: sample 50 packages plus 1% of those in excess of 1000
(e)	For precious CMM	: sample every package regardless of the number

(3) Take CMM by portions from different parts of the selected packages and mix them into one pooled sample. For small amount of material, the quantity of the sample taken should not be less than three times of the amount required for tests; for large amount of material, the quantity of the sample taken is recommended as follows –

(a)	Common CMM	: 100-500 g
(b)	Powdered CMM	: 25-50 g
(c)	Precious CMM	: 5-10 g

(4) One third of the samples are used for analysis; one third for verification and the remaining for retention for at least a year. For preparation of test sample, take a representative CMM sample and cut it into pieces, if necessary, before grinding. Powder the sample before the analysis. Whenever possible, the quantity of sample to be powdered should be of at least five times as much as those needed for the analysis.