

SOIL SAMPLING PRACTICAL EXAMPLE

BACKGROUND

1. Taking of a soil sample under 4kg is a Tier 1 Activity.
2. Removing more than 4kg of material, but less than 20kg is a Tier 2 Activity and taking more than 20kg of material constitutes a Tier 3 Activity.

QUESTION

3. Does the taking of a total of 50kg of material, via taking 100 x 0.5kg samples during a soil sampling program, comprise a Tier 1, Tier 2 or Tier 3 Activity?

ANSWER

4. Each sample taken is a single "Activity". It is irrelevant how many samples may be planned as part of an exploration program.
5. As a result, you should undertake a Due Diligence Assessment (DDA) at the Tier 1 level for each Activity - the taking of each sample. (Refer to [AMEC Due Diligence Assessment Verification Checklist](#)). This involves the compulsory searching of the ACH Directory and the consideration as to whether you are otherwise aware that Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (ACH) is located in the activity area (which may include utilisation of the [ACH Identification Guidelines](#)).
6. If no ACH is located, there is no limit to the number of samples, each being less than 4kg, that can be taken from a non-ACH area.
7. If ACH is located, the limit of 4kg per ACH Area per year will apply, above which the Activity will increase to either a Tier 2 (up to a total 20kg) or Tier 3 (greater than 20kg) Activity

POLICY RATIONALE

8. The legislation protects ACH from activities above a certain threshold, in this instance, the taking of a sample of greater than 4kg. If a sample is taken from an area that is not (based on a Tier 1 DDA process) the subject of ACH, the Activity does not trigger any additional procedure under the ACH Act. This principle applies even if a single soil sampling program might comprise, in aggregate, the taking of samples that together comprise more than 20kg. Provided each sample is below 4kg, and no ACH has been identified (applying the proper Tier 1 DDA procedure), there is no limit to the number of samples that may be taken. The overarching rationale is how each individual activity impacts, or does not impact, ACH.