

QUALITY CONTROL AND ASSURANCE PROGRAM



Sample: representative fraction of body of material, removed by approved methods, guarded against accidental or fraudulent adulteration, and tested or analyzed in order to determine the nature, composition, percentage of specified constituents..... (Thrush et al. (1990))

Introduction

Martern EOOD is a subsidiary of EurOmax Resources Limited and the operating entity in Bulgaria.

It is only in the last decade that exploration companies have instigated corporation wide sampling quality control programs, which in part has been driven by a number of well documented financial scandals.

During the last decade, there has been a marked increase in the requirement for clearly stated policies for sample quality and assurance during all stages of the exploration and pre-development cycle. The regulatory environment has slowly evolved in Canada, culminating in the drafting of National Instrument 43-101 (NI 43-101) – which now governs public disclosure by companies in the mining and minerals exploration sector. While NI 43-101 and its Companion Policy have set out specific responsibilities and duties of the reporting issuers and the independent Qualified Persons, the detail for minimal compliance has been specifically left to the individual issuers.

More important however, for the professionally managed exploration company is the need to obtain an accurate estimate of the quantity of an economic mineral in a given deposit. It is this estimate which ultimately drives the development decision and with the ever increasing sophistication in resource and process modeling, the precision and accuracy of the earliest stage of exploration sampling is becoming increasingly significant. Implementation of a rigorous well conceived QA/QC program at an early stage allows for the ready acceptance of the data and its conclusions by external organisations and saves both money and time by removing the necessity to back-track at the resource drilling or feasibility study stage in an attempt to obtain reliable and compatible data.

This paper outlines the Martern Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA-QC) program. We believe there needs to be a clear statement of policies and procedures at every stage of the exploration cycle.

Definitions

Precision: reproducibility of a result or the percent relative variation at the two standard deviations confidence level;

Accuracy: relationship between the routine assay and the expected result;

Detection Limit: is commonly understood to be the smallest concentration we can measure with a particular technique. In fact it is the point at which we can make a decision whether the element or compound is present or not. To be able to measure it we need at least two times the detection limit;

Certified Reference Materials (CRMs): Homogenous material which has been assayed by a large number of laboratories using various techniques;

Internal Standards: in-house standards usually prepared from locally derived materials known to have a relatively consistent elemental distribution and prepared so as to enhance this homogeneity;

International Regulatory Environment

Until the mid 1990's, there were few regulatory or professional society guidelines for the reporting of the exploration activity in the minerals industry. Since that time, all major market environments have adopted largely similar guidelines. A summary of the major codes is given below:

1. The Australasian Code for Reporting of Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves (the 'JORC Code') sets out minimum standards, recommendations and guidelines for Public Reporting of exploration results, mineral resources and ore reserves in Australia.
2. The Materials, Minerals, and Mining and Metallurgy in the United Kingdom has adopted the IMMM Code for the classification of resources and mineral reserves.
3. The South African Mineral Committee (SAMREC) under the auspices of the South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (SAIMM) has adopted the SAMREC Code for the reporting of mineral resources and reserves.
4. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has adopted the Mining Industry Guide 7 Description Of Property By Issuers Engaged Or To Be Engaged In Significant Mining Operations
5. In 1997 the TSX and the Ontario Securities Commission established the Mining Standards Task Force to provide recommendation for the better regulation of the Canadian industry after a number of major financial scandals in the sector. A key recommendation central to the JORC Code was the requirement for certain reports to be qualified by a Competent Person. The Qualified Person is responsible for the preparation of technical reports and the supervision of the acquisition of the data therein. The CIMM later adopted Definitions and Guidelines for Standards on Mineral Resources and Reserves, which included a Checklist for the Estimation of Mineral Resources and Exploration Best Practice Guidelines. In 2001 the Canadian Securities Administrators (CSA) adopted new disclosure standards in National Instrument NI 43-101, the Companion Policy 43-101CP, and Technical Report Form 43-101F.

The Exploration Process

Ultimately the exploration process results in the development of a mining project. The phases of an exploration program are complex and costly and vary markedly between commodities and projects. A typical project timeline (where samples are produced which could later be used to delineate reserves) would involve: -

- Reconnaissance mapping and sampling,
- Surface geochemical sampling, pitting and trenching,
- Open hole, reverse circulation and diamond drilling,
- Underground exploration and sampling.

Each of these steps requires the collection, preparation and assaying of samples, all of which adds more data to the ultimate database used for the definition of resources, reserves and an economic model on which the decision to mine is based and on which basis the project is financed. It is necessary that every sample taken is representative of the material being sampled and is not biased by the sampler or by intentional misrepresentation.

Quality Control in Exploration

Well designed Quality Control (Q.C.) can detect contamination, sampling inconsistencies, laboratory bias, laboratory sample management errors, degradation in detection limits and salting. A well designed program can quantify sampling and assay accuracy as well as precision which can ultimately be used to statistically evaluate the risk associated with calculating the average grade of a mineral deposit. This has a significant impact on drill spacing, amongst other things. There are good examples where drilling density had been too low and where grade expectation during mining was never met, resulting in early mine closure and operating losses.

Over the life cycle of the exploration of a deposit, Q.C. procedures need to be designed to quantify accuracy, precision, and detection limit, and to detect contamination. There are typically two stages of exploration, an early reconnaissance stage and a detailed evaluation stage. The QC requirement for both

is somewhat different. The reconnaissance stage is primarily concerned with precision (reproducibility of results) and contamination and to a lesser extent accuracy. Subsequent exploration where there is clear indication of an economic resource is more concerned with accuracy.

Exploration Drilling

Exploration drilling and sampling is a complex multistage process, which provides the opportunity for incorporation of systematic bias into the data collection process. There are three principle types of drilling, open hole, reverse circulation and diamond drilling. Each type of drilling has its own application and overall no method is universally better than another. For example while diamond drilling can give an excellent sample, in strongly weathered or altered environments, a poor sample with a substantial bias can often result.

Drill hole Location and Specification

Drill hole survey data is very important from the outset of the exploration program. We follow the following procedure:

- Care is taken to accurately align the rig;
- All drill holes are located with GPS;
- All drill holes upon abandonment are plugged with a small concrete plug buried below surface with flexible plastic irrigation pipe allowed to protrude above surface. This minimizes impact and is not overly damaged by inevitable vehicle activity;
- Where there is any reasonable possibility of extensive earthworks on the site, affected holes are surveyed and tied into a national datum. After the early exploration stage all holes are surveyed.
- Diamond holes are surveyed not less than every 25 metres with a down-hole camera or gyro.

Reverse Circulation

Reverse circulation (RC) drilling has the potential to provide high quality samples of large volume quickly and a low cost. Below the water table, RC can suffer from systematic bias, sample loss and contamination. Martern uses a face-sampling hammer on all holes to minimize contamination.

Obtaining a high quality sample during RC drilling requires that the exploration company has control of the drilling process. A clear plastic sample bag must be affixed to the bottom of the cyclone and drilling must advance such that dust from the top of the cyclone is minimized. At the end of the one metre sample interval, the drill string must be raised off the bottom of hole and the hole circulated to clear residual cuttings - drilling can not proceed until the air above the cuttings in the sample bag runs clear.

Diamond Drilling

Diamond drilling operations are well documented elsewhere. The contractor is closely monitored to ensure the highest quality in presentation of the diamond drill core. Diamond core is routinely oriented for structural measurements with an orientation spear. HQ3 or NQ3 is used to maximize core recovery where ground conditions necessitate .

Logging Procedures

Drilling is expensive and as much data as possible must be derived from the cuttings or core.

Reverse Circulation

- Sample weight is recorded;
- Geological observations are recorded manually on paper graphic logs;
- Assay number is checked;
- A logging sample is stored in plastic sample trays;
- Sample trays are photographed;
- Graphic logs are then logged manually into a database;
- Following receipt of assay data ore grade intervals are re-logged in greater detail to better understand the relationship between geology and mineralization.

Diamond Drilling

- Core trays are photographed;
- Geological observations, rock type, alteration, mineralization, fracture and vein density are recorded manually on graphic logs;
- Core is orientated and structural information is logged;
- Sample data is recorded;
- Graphic logs are then logged manually into a database;
- Following receipt of assay data ore grade intervals are re-logged in greater detail to better understand the relationship between geology and mineralization;
- Detailed geotechnical logging will be conducted where Martern commences an infill resource definition drilling program.

Sample Handling Procedure

Reverse circulation

The company takes RC samples over one metre intervals. A sample bag, previously marked with an indelible pen with the pre-assigned sample number is fitted to the bottom of the sample cyclone. The drillhole sample is then weighed and split to produce a routine assay sample. Weighing samples has a number of benefits - it allows the calculation of recovery versus grade, lithology and drilling contractor.

The reject is then tied and a perma-tag with sample number attached. Rejects are then transported to the Elshitza warehouse as soon as possible. Assay samples are kept by company personnel and transported by company personnel to the assay laboratory in a timely manner.

The following samples are taken at rig-side (all assay samples are placed in heavy-duty plastic bags, marked with indelible ink. The assay ticket is placed at the top of the sample bag, the bag folded so that the sample number is readable and securely stapled):

Routine Assay Sample: A 1.5 kilogram sample is riffle split and placed into a heavy duty plastic bag;

Duplicate Sample: A duplicate sample is taken during drilling operations on a pre-assigned randomised basis. Duplicate samples are numbered 20 sample numbers ahead. This sample is used to monitor sample batches for poor sample management, contamination and tampering and to a lesser extent precision (the potentially high sampling error at this stage of the sampling process does not allow the calculation of precision). These samples also give valuable data on the homogeneity of metal distribution within the sampled interval;

Field Blank: Samples of a "blank", known to contain low levels of economically interesting metals are randomly inserted into the sample stream. This sample material is similar to the drill cuttings that are routinely submitted. This "Blank Sample" provides a good indication of the quality of sample management and contamination in the sample preparation process and is used as a criterion for batch rejection;

Internal Standards: Standards are submitted into the sample stream on a routine basis. Internal standards allow an estimate of accuracy of the analytical method and provide batch failure criteria. Four Internal Standards have been prepared and the preparation procedure is detailed in Annexure 1.

Logging Sample: A small sample of washed RC chips is presented for geological logging and portion of this sample is stored in plastic sample boxes.

When systematic reverse circulation drilling is commenced on any project, standards derived from material from the site will be prepared and systematically tested prior to use. The method used by Martern, namely routine, blank, duplicate and internal standards is adequate for the determination of accuracy and precision.

During 2004 due to laboratory equipment availability and the absence of internal standards sampling procedures were slightly different as outlined in Appendix 2. The principle differences in the 2004 program were the absence of internal standards and the use of triplicate samples submitted to an independent laboratory.

Diamond Drilling

Specific instruction and supervision is given to the driller to ensure that core is consistently and carefully laid in core boxes and that core blocks are routinely and accurately placed in the core boxes. Core is regularly collected from rig-side and care is taken to avoid core loss or spillage during transport.

Our diamond core handling procedures are:

- DDH Core is collected from rig-side daily and where only a single shift is being undertaken, at the end of shift if core is recovered;
- Core is laid out on steel logging racks at the Elshitza warehouse;
- Core blocks are checked for consistency and core trays are marked with hole numbers and drill hole interval;
- Core orientation marks are noted and the core aligned and marked for cutting;
- Core is marked with a cutting line;
- Core is cut with a diamond saw;
- Samples are placed in cloth bags;
- Core is wet and photographed with a digital camera – the image ID is recorded in the drill hole graphic log;
- Core is geologically logged, then stacked on wooden pallets and stored in the core shack.

The following samples are taken or inserted into the sample stream:

Routine Assay Sample: After cutting with a diamond saw drill core is bagged over 1 metre intervals or wider intervals where the geology suggests there is little mineralisation and submitted for assay.

Field Blank: Samples of a “blank”, known to contain low level of economically interesting metals are randomly inserted into the sample stream.

Internal Standards: Standards are submitted into the sample stream on a routine basis. Internal standards allow an estimate of accuracy of the analytical method and provide batch failure criteria. Four Internal Standards have been prepared and the preparation procedure is detailed in Annexure 1.

Duplicate Sample: After retrieval of the reject and pulp to the sample storage facility a 200 gram split of the reject is rebagged and renumbered and submitted for assay. This sample is used to monitor sample batches for poor sample management, contamination and tampering and laboratory precision.

The method used by Martern, namely routine, blank, duplicate and internal standards is adequate for the determination of accuracy and precision. Where an infill resource definition diamond drilling program is commenced on any project quarter core duplicates will be taken ever 20 samples.

Sample Batching and Tracking

Reverse Circulation

RC samples are batched in the following manner to allow for batch assay rejection and to aide sample tracking:

- Samples will be batched in a predetermined manner into batches of 20 samples;
- Martern quality management samples in individual batches include one duplicate split, one internal standard and one analytical blank which are inserted randomly into each batch;
- Batches are dispatched to the laboratory and tracked by the first number in each batch;
- A custody and tracking form accompanies all sample batches and is signed as received by the laboratory and the Company employee delivering the samples;
- Samples are transported in a company vehicle from the drill site or local storage area to the laboratory;
- Batches are combined to a laboratory batch size of 40 samples and 2 laboratory duplicates are added, plus two high and two low grade laboratory standards.
- Batches are rejected where the field blank is above a pre-determined limit and where the internal standard is above the round robin 3 SD limit.

Diamond Drilling

Diamond Drilling samples are taken over variable intervals reflecting the geology, however maximum sample length in weakly mineralised intervals is 3 metres and in more strongly altered and mineralised intervals is one metre. Diamond drillhole samples are batched in the following manner to allow for batch assay rejection and to aid sample tracking:

- Drill core is transported to our sample storage facility;
- After the cutting and sampling of half core, samples are batched into batches of 18 samples which are then transported to the laboratory;
- Martern quality management samples are inserted into each batch. An internal standard together with an analytical blank is inserted;
- Batches are dispatched to the laboratory and tracked by the first number in each batch;
- A custody and tracking form accompanies all sample batches and is signed as delivered by the Company employee delivering the samples. Where the samples are dispatched for assay outside Bulgaria the custody form is signed by the freight company and ultimately the receiving laboratory. The custody form is then faxed back to +1 604 608 3344;
- Samples are transported in a company vehicle from the Company sample preparation site and delivered to the laboratory or the freight company as is appropriate;
- Batches are combined to a laboratory batch size of 40 samples and 2 laboratory duplicates are added, plus two high and two low grade laboratory standards;
- Batches are rejected where the field blank is above a pre-determined limit and where the internal standard is above the round robin 3 SD limit.

Sample Preparation and Assay

Reverse Circulation Drilling

Routine samples are assayed at a laboratory with ISO9000 accreditation. In addition to routine assay samples, duplicates and blanks are randomly submitted into the sample stream as described above.

The reverse circulation sample is riffle split to produce a 2 kilogram assay sample. The sample is then:

- Dried;
- Crushed through a jaw crusher and hammer milled to 90%<500 microns;
- The sample was mixed and split down to 400 gms and pulverized to 90%<75 microns;
- The resulting pulp was split and bagged. One sample for assay and the other as a reference to be retained by the company;
- Gold and silver are assayed by 50 gm fire assay with an AAS finish.

All sample rejects and reference pulps are stored at the Company warehouse facility in Elshitzza, Bulgaria.

Diamond Drilling

Routine samples were assayed American Assay Labs ("AAL") in Sparks, Nevada. Reference laboratory triplicates are submitted to ALS Chemex, Vancouver for assay.

Diamond drill hole samples are processed in the following manner:-

- Dried;
- Crushed through a jaw crusher and hammer milled to 90%<500 microns;
- Samples are mixed well and then split and 400 grams pulverised to 90% <75 microns.
- The resulting pulp was split and bagged. One sample for assay and the other as a reference to be retained by the company.
- Gold and silver are assayed by 50 gm fire assay with an AAS finish.

All sample rejects and reference pulps are stored at the Company warehouse facility in Elshitzza, Bulgaria.

Batch Failure and Re-assay

The purpose of batching samples is to evaluate sample preparation methodology, accuracy and precision. Batches are rejected where the field blank is above a pre-determined limit and where the internal standard is above the round robin 3 SD limit. A record of batch failures is kept.

Data Storage and Validation

Data input and validation are time consuming tasks of fundamental importance to the quality management. We undertake the following:-

- Geological and survey data are entered into a Mapinfo database
- Assay data is received in a spreadsheet format and is imported into the database. The original data is imported into a separate Access database for long term reference and Mapinfo Database
- Only specific individuals have rights to edit and import assay data.
- The integrity of the database is verified by both manual checking and software
- We have set the following error levels for database validation:-
 - Collar and down-hole survey data - zero tolerance
 - Database assays compared to lab file assays – less than 0.5%

Data Analysis

The volume of data generated during a large drilling program necessitates the review and analysis of data in a timely and systematic manner. We undertake the following:

- Plot of internal standard and Field Blank assay data against time;
- Various statistical measures and plots including scatter, relative difference and precision plots.

Conclusions

The implementation of a quality control program for diamond and reverse circulation drilling is important as it guarantees acceptable levels for future resource estimation of accuracy and precision. In addition it allows verification and acceptance of the results by external organisations and is a requirement under Canadian legislation. The QC program developed by Martern meets that required by National Instrument 43-101.

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Imagery for insertion:

Annexure 1

Preparation of Internal Standards – General Procedures

Four standards have been produced from drill cuttings where gold distribution is believed to be relatively uniform. Sufficient sample has been prepared for 45,000 metres of drilling assuming 1 Internal Standard for every 15 routine assay samples submitted. Standards have been prepared by experienced company personnel in a facility under contract to the company. A rotating baffle rotating drum was constructed to fully homogenise samples.

1. Select RC cuttings from three representative holes with average values of 0.5 g/t, 1 g/t and 3 g/t gold - sample weight should total 80 kg but should not be more than 25% of any one interval. Record carefully the weight of material from each interval.
2. Dry the entire sample
3. Hammer crush the entire sample
4. Mix well - pulverise the entire sample
5. The resulting pulp is then sieved to 200# and any coarse remainder pulverized again and sieved.
6. Any remaining +200# material is weighed, recorded and then discarded.
7. The sample is then quartered and into 8 separate 10 kilogram batches.
8. Each 10 kilogram batch is rolled 30 times, after which a 1.25 kilogram sub-sample is taken and combined from the other 7 1.25 kilogram sub-samples taken from other batches into a new 10-kilogram batch.
9. This entire process is repeated 3 times.
10. Finally, the entire 80 kilograms is homogenized in a rotating baffled diagonal drum for 48 hours.
11. After homogenization, the sample is placed in 10 kilogram drums.
12. Each drum is sampled with a probe, and the resulting samples are analyzed in three different shifts (i.e. 3 analyses per 10 kilogram drum, for a total of 24 analyses per 80 kilograms) for 50 grams FA Au and Ag.
13. If the analyses confirm the homogeneity of the standard, it is then split and packaged in 100 g double-capped plastic bottles.
14. In case that the analyses fall outside of a 95% confidence interval, the homogenization and analysis process is repeated.
15. All weights, analytical results, recommended values and maximum and minimum accepted values are reported.
16. Five samples of each standard are sent to 6 different laboratories.

Appendix 2

2004 Reverse Circulation Sampling Procedures

Due to various laboratory equipment issues in 2004 which have subsequently been rectified sampling was conducted in a slightly different manner to that which is now company policy. The changes incorporated in the sample handling procedures will result in a more quantitative analysis of both accuracy and precision.

The following samples were taken at rig-side (all assay samples are placed in heavy-duty plastic bags, marked with indelible ink. The assay ticket is placed at the top of the sample bag, the bag folded so that the sample number is readable and securely stapled):

Routine Assay Sample: A 1.5 kilogram sub sample is riffle split and placed into a heavy duty plastic bag.

Field Blank: Samples of a “blank”, known to contain low levels of economically interesting metals are randomly inserted into the sample stream. This sample material is similar to the drill cuttings that are routinely submitted. This “Blank Sample” provides a good indication of the quality of sample management and contamination in the sample preparation process.

Duplicate Sample: A duplicate sample is taken during drilling operations and inserted randomly on a pre-assigned basis into the sample stream. Duplicate samples are numbered 20 sample numbers ahead. This sample is used to monitor sample batches for poor sample management, contamination and tampering and to a lesser degree laboratory precision.

Reference Lab sample: A triplicate sample split is taken at rig-side and submitted to an independent laboratory. While coarse reject samples have a high sampling error these samples give an indication of assay accuracy.

Logging Sample: A small sample of washed RC chips is presented for geological logging and portion of this sample is stored in plastic sample boxes.

Internal Standards: During the initial phase of exploration and RC drilling, standards were not submitted.

Sample Preparation Procedures

During 2004 triplicate samples were taken at rig-side and submitted to an independent laboratory in the United States. Samples were prepared at a facility in Bulgaria under contract to the company.

Samples were:

- Dried,
- Crushed thorough a jaw crusher and hammer milled to approximately 1000 microns at a Company sample preparation facility in Plovdiv, Bulgaria.
- The sample was well mixed and split down to a 100 gram sample and packaged for transport to the USA.
- The USA laboratory pulverized the sample to <75 microns.
- Gold was assayed by a 50 gram fire assay with an AAS finish and silver and 47 other elements by ICPMS.

Appendix 3

2004 Diamond Drilling Sampling Procedures

Due to various laboratory equipment issues in 2004 which have subsequently been rectified sampling was conducted in a slightly different manner to that which is now company policy.

Routine Assay Sample: After cutting with a diamond saw drill core is bagged over 1 metre intervals or wider intervals where the geology suggests there is little mineralisation. The sample weighing between 1.5 and 5.5 kg is crushed to -2mm. After the sample is well mixed a 500 gram split is taken and pulverised. A 100 gram sample is submitted for assay.

Field Blank: Samples of a “blank”, known to contain low level of economically interesting metals are randomly inserted into the sample stream. This sample material is similar to the drill cuttings that are routinely submitted. This “Blank Sample” provides a good indication of the quality of sample management and contamination in the sample preparation process.

Duplicate Sample: A 100 gram split of the crushed routine sample material is renumbered and submitted for assay with a new sample number. This sample is used to monitor sample batches for poor sample management, contamination and tampering and laboratory precision.

Sample Preparation Procedures

Diamond drill hole samples are processed in the following manner:-

- Dried;
- Crushed thorough a jaw crusher and hammer milled to approximately 1000 microns at a Company sample preparation facility in Plovdiv, Bulgaria;
- The sample was well mixed and split down to a 100 gram sample and packaged for transport to AAL in Nevada;
- AAL pulverized the sample to <75 microns;
- AAL assay for gold by a 50 gram fire assay with an AAS finish and silver and 47 other elements by ICPMS.