

QOTHO CERTIFIED REFERENCE MATERIAL (QCRM)

QCRM-5-124

COPPER CONCENTRATE

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS

CERTIFIED VALUES			
ANALYTES	UNITS	CONCENTRATIONS	EXPANDED UNCERTAINTY
Al	%	0.85	±0.04
Ca	%	6.21	±0.44
Co	%	0.13	±0.01
Cu	%	25.42	±0.22
Cu (Soluble)	%	1.81	±0.50
Fe	%	19.85	±0.66
Mg	%	1.76	±0.07
Mn	%	0.038	±0.002
S	%	16.43	±0.43
Si	%	5.47	±0.54
Zn	%	0.067	±0.008
ASSIGNED VALUES (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)			
ANALYTES	UNITS	CONCENTRATIONS	EXPANDED UNCERTAINTY
Ag	g/t	38.6	±2.2
Ni	%	0.28	±0.02
Pb	%	0.024	±0.006

1. Use:

QCRM-5-124 is a certified reference material which is suitable for use as random control samples in routine analytical laboratory quality control, when inserted within a batch of samples and measured in parallel to the unknown. The QCRM can also be used as a control sample in the analysis of samples of a similar type, verification of analytical methods for Copper Concentrate and as a calibration standard for the calibration of equipment used for analysing similar materials.

2. Origin of Material:

The material was supplied by Palabora Mining Company Ltd. It is a copper mine that also operates a smelter and refinery complex based in the town of Phalaborwa, in South Africa's Limpopo Province.

3. Mineral and Chemical Composition:

This concentrate traces its origin from a unique geological formation known as the Palabora Igneous Complex. The geology of the ore includes carbonatites and a host of other minerals such as phosphates, vermiculite, phlogopite, magnetite, nickel, gold, silver, platinum and palladium. The concentrate was produced via a flotation process.

4. Date of Initial Issue:

15 March 2023.

5. Packaging & Handling instructions:

The material was packaged as 100g unit sizes, placed in geo-envelopes, within a vacuum sealed aluminium foil bag. Open the seal of the foil with care and shake or otherwise agitate prior to use. Normal safety precautions for handling fine particulate matter are recommended, such as the use of safety glasses, breathing protection, gloves, and a laboratory coat. Once opened, material must be stored in a cool, dry environment. Results on page 1 is presented on dry basis. Analysis should therefore be done on dry basis, after drying to constant mass, at 105 degrees Celsius.

6. Method of Preparation:

The material was sieved through a 75-micron screen and the oversize was re-milled to ensure 100% passing through the screen. It was then blended, systematically divided, and packaged into 100-gram zip-lock bags. Randomly selected samples, from the bags, were tested in-house via XRF, to confirm homogeneity. Once confirmed and certification completed, the items were placed in geo-envelopes and vacuum sealed in aluminium foil bags.

7. Methods of Analysis used:

- Sodium peroxide fusion with AAS or ICP-OES finish
- Multi-acid digestion with AAS or ICP-OES finish
- Fused beads with XRF finish
- Pressed powder with XRF finish
- Copper by multi-acid digestion and Potentiometric finish
- Copper by multi-acid digestion and Electro-gravimetric finish
- Acid soluble copper by dilute sulphuric acid leach and AAS finish
- Sulphur by combustion analysis.

8. Analysis required:

An instruction letter was sent to all participants. The analysis required including Ag, Al, As, Au, Ca, Cd, Co, Cu, Cu (Soluble), Fe, Mg, Mn, Ni, Pb, S, Si, U and Zn.

9. Participating Laboratories:

No	LABORATORY	COUNTRY
1.	AHK DRC South	Democratic Republic of Congo
2.	AHK Kitwe	Zambia
3.	AHK Lumwana	Zambia
4.	Alex Stewart International	United Kingdom
5.	ALS Geochemistry Kempton Park	South Africa
6.	ALS Inspection UK	United Kingdom
7.	Kamoto Copper Company	Democratic Republic of Congo
8.	Lubambe Copper Mine	Zambia
9.	Metalkol	Democratic Republic of Congo
10.	Mineração Caraíba S.A.	Brazil
11.	Mitra Sk South Africa	South Africa
12.	Mopani Mufulira	Zambia
13.	Mopani Nkana	Zambia
14.	MSALabs Tanzania	Tanzania
15.	Mutanda Mining	Democratic Republic of Congo
16.	OCC Likasi	Democratic Republic of Congo
17.	OCC Lubumbashi	Democratic Republic of Congo
18.	Palabora Mining Company	South Africa
19.	Rio Tinto Kennecott	United States of America
20.	Robinson International	Democratic Republic of Congo
21.	Suntech	South Africa
22.	UIS Analytical Services ICP	South Africa
23.	UIS Analytical Services XRF	South Africa
24.	Zambia Revenue Authority	Zambia

10. Assay Data:

Data used for Assigning Values and Certification.

LAB	Ag	Al	As	Au	Ca	Cd	Co	Cu	Cu (Soluble)	Fe	Mg	Mn	Ni	Pb	S	Si	Zn
UNIT	g/t	%	ppm	g/t	%	ppm	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
LAB001									1.605								
LAB002								25.398									
LAB003							0.128			18.735			0.288				0.059
LAB004								24.333									
LAB005					5.982		0.132	25.47	1.763						16.2		
LAB006	39.795	0.788	< 26.00	1.955	5.966	< 17.00	0.127	26.015	1.315	19.715		0.038	0.281	0.02	16.35	5.969	0.05
LAB007			13					26.25					0.232	0.013			
LAB008								25.535								4.49	
LAB009			18.04				0.107			20.26		0.038	0.242		2.21	6.694	0.058
LAB010		0.882			1.791		0.133	26.465		21.182	1.796	0.043	0.364				0.061
LAB011		0.795			5.435	2.15	0.13	25.3		19.05	1.49				16.725		0.085
LAB012								25.09									
LAB013								24.75									
LAB014								25.23									
LAB015	36.5	0.862	10	1.615		20		25.405		19.913			0.281	0.025		5.404	0.058
LAB016								25.36									
LAB017	40.58	0.61	43.837		6.18	4.152	0.16	25.25	2.875	18.03	1.75	0.037	0.27	0.026	0.054		0.054
LAB018	38.38		42		6.476	2.427						0.04	0.28				
LAB019		0.897								20.279	1.733		0.318		16.239	5.376	
LAB020								25.591									
LAB021							0.123	25.798				0.04	0.281	0.018			0.058
LAB022		0.907			6.747		0.138	26.913	0.515				0.303	0.037			0.071
LAB023							0.143	25.42	3.063	20.393	2.076	0.042		0.024	16.35	5.09	0.054
LAB024		0.833			6.2		0.125	25.165	1.626		1.728	0.032	0.27	0.017			0.067

LAB	Ag	Al	As	Au	Ca	Cd	Co	Cu	Cu (Soluble)	Fe	Mg	Mn	Ni	Pb	S	Si	Zn
UNIT	g/t	%	ppm	g/t	%	ppm	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
LAB025								25.489									
LAB026								24.29									
LAB027					6.265		0.134	26.921		21.026	1.799	0.036	0.281				
LAB028		0.87			0.707		0.13	25.415	1.985	19.648	1.755	0.035	0.302	< 0.001	16.7		0.07
LAB029	38.77	0.78	12.503		6.665		0.125	25.5	1.695	19.07	1.73	0.54	0.29	0.028	16.497		0.072
LAB030								25.635									
LAB031	40.246	0.818					0.133	25.505	1.414	19.223	1.693			0.024	17.166	5.653	0.069
LAB032	36.65		7.5					25.55	2.265						16.025		
LAB033	37.5		< 20.00	1.68									0.27	0.025			
LAB034					5.211		0.124	24.944	1.726		1.744				17		
LAB035							0.188	24.52									
LAB036							0.169	24.34									
LAB037								25.285									
LAB038		0.845								19.95	1.695		0.255	0.028			0.099
LAB039								26.085									
LAB040		0.848					0.165	24.02			1.938	0.038	0.274				0.084
LAB041					7		0.116	25.875		20.25	1.93	0.033	0.236	0.019			0.078
LAB042		0.833			5.941					18.925	1.616		0.256	0.356	15.441	5.117	
LAB043								25.532									
LAB044							< 0.010	28.71					0.235				
LAB045		0.843			6.495		0.129	24.85		20.25	1.69	0.038	0.295	0.033	16.35	5.535	
LAB046		0.967			6.342			26.87		21.037	1.844	0.042			16.588	5.636	
LAB047								25.29									

11. Method of Certification:

QM is a SANAS Accredited Proficiency Testing Scheme Provider, No. PTS0012

This material was distributed as test items, in the Qotho Copper PT Rounds 3 of 2022 and 1 of 2023. The participating laboratories were each given 1 randomly selected sample from the batch, to analyse and report on in duplicate. Some laboratories reported results via more than one analytical method. Obvious blunders were resolved with the laboratories (if any), after which the data was processed using Robust Statistics, through PROLab Plus.

Not all the participating laboratories were accredited. Historical performance in Qotho PT Schemes, as well as an evaluation of the CRM QA/QC data generated by the laboratories, during the analysis of this QRM, were considered, to evaluate the competence of laboratories. Where competence could not be confirmed, the affected data was deselected from the dataset. Certification of analytes was then done, provided that a minimum of 10 qualifying datapoints remained available.

Where analytes could not be certified, estimate concentrations were assigned, using all the data in the dataset.

12. Measurement of Uncertainty:

Standard uncertainty, u_{CRM} , was calculated according to ISO 13528:2015 (equation 6), and it includes the effects of uncertainty due to inhomogeneity, transport, potential instability, and laboratory uncertainty. Because of all the uncertainties under consideration, QM further applies an expanded uncertainty, for certification purposes. The measurement uncertainty of the certified value is therefore calculated as follows: $UCRM = k u_{CRM}$, where k is a coverage factor, which is determined from the Student's t -distribution, based on the degrees of freedom, per analyte. This presents a certified value, as follows: $x_{CRM} \pm UCRM$.

Measurement uncertainty for Assigned values, are calculated in the same manner.

Laboratories which prefer to use the 95% measurement uncertainty, rather than the expanded uncertainty, all available information relating to measurement uncertainty of the certified/assigned values, are given below:

Analyte	Unit of measure	s (Standard Deviation of Dataset)	ν (Degrees of Freedom)	k (Coverage Factor)	u (Standard Uncertainty)	95% Measurement Uncertainty	Expanded Uncertainty
Ag	g/t	1.989	7	2.365	0.922	± 1.8	± 2.2
Al	%	0.06	15	2.131	0.019	± 0.04	± 0.04
Ca	%	0.683	15	2.131	0.205	± 0.41	± 0.44
Co	%	0.012	20	2.086	0.003	± 0.01	± 0.01
Cu	%	0.507	38	2.024	0.11	± 0.22	± 0.22
Cu (Soluble)	%	0.589	11	2.201	0.224	± 0.45	± 0.50
Fe	%	0.964	17	2.110	0.31	± 0.62	± 0.66
Mg	%	0.108	16	2.120	0.032	± 0.06	± 0.07
Mn	%	0.004	14	2.145	0.001	± 0.002	± 0.002
Ni	%	0.026	21	2.080	0.007	± 0.01	± 0.02
Pb	%	0.009	14	2.145	0.003	± 0.006	± 0.006
S	%	0.658	14	2.145	0.197	± 0.39	± 0.43
Si	%	0.572	9	2.262	0.24	± 0.48	± 0.54
Zn	%	0.014	16	2.120	0.004	± 0.008	± 0.008

13. 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 accredited laboratories, as ISO 17025 requires laboratories to use CRM's traceable to the SI units, during the calibration of their equipment. Not all laboratories were accredited.

Fortunately, most laboratories reported on the QA/QC CRMs used during the analysis of this QRM and reported the values obtained during the sample run. Evaluation of their QA/QC performance serves as further evidence of metrological traceability.

Equivalence tests were performed on all analytes to determine whether the metrologically traceable data and those for which traceability evidence was not available, could be treated as equal (at a level of significance of $\alpha = 0.05$). Where equivalent, all the data was used. Where not equivalent, only the metrologically traceable data was considered.

14. Minimum sample size:

The recommended minimum sample size for the use of this material is as per the participants method validation criteria.

15. Period of validity:

The certified values are valid for this product, while still sealed in its original packaging, for a minimum period of 5 years from date of Initial Certification. Stability monitoring of inventory will be done at regular intervals. Any concerns regarding potential instability of the material, will immediately be communicated to all consumers.

16. Legal:

This certificate and the reference material described in it were prepared with due care and attention. The requirements of ISO Guide 31, ISO 17043 and ISO 17034 were followed in the preparation of this reference material and certificate of analysis.

Qotho Minerals, however, accepts no liability for any decisions or actions taken following the use of the reference material. The company has a complaints procedure, which will be made available upon request, should there be any dissatisfaction with either the product or the COA.

Certifying & Technical Signatories	
<i>Dr Hannelie de Beer (Pr. Sci. Nat.)</i>	<i>Takudzwa Tsapayi (Pr. Sci. Nat.)</i>
15 March 2023	

This Certificate of Analysis (CoA) has been electronically signed using an Advanced Electronic Signature (AES) in terms of the Electronic Communications and Transactions Act No. 15, 2002 (ECT Act). Any amendments to the CoA can be detected by reference to the Signature Panel displayed in the electronic pdf version of the CoA.

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