

## QOTHO CERTIFIED REFERENCE MATERIAL (QCRM)

### QCRM-4-133 (CRM A)

IRON ORE - PRODUCT GRADE

### CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS

| CERTIFIED VALUES                       |                   |                |                      |
|--|-------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| ANALYTES                               | UNITS             | CONCENTRATIONS | EXPANDED UNCERTAINTY |
| Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>         | %                 | 1.31           | ±0.02                |
| BaO                                    | %                 | 0.021          | ±0.004               |
| CaO                                    | %                 | 0.138          | ±0.002               |
| Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>         | %                 | 0.034          | ±0.006               |
| Fe                                     | %                 | 63.25          | ±0.10                |
| K <sub>2</sub> O                       | %                 | 0.178          | ±0.002               |
| LOI (1000 °C)                          | %                 | 0.42           | ±0.03                |
| MgO                                    | %                 | 0.033          | ±0.006               |
| Mn                                     | %                 | 0.024          | ±0.002               |
| Na <sub>2</sub> O                      | %                 | 0.025          | ±0.009               |
| P                                      | %                 | 0.056          | ±0.002               |
| S                                      | %                 | 0.010          | ±0.002               |
| SiO <sub>2</sub>                       | %                 | 7.11           | ±0.04                |
| TiO <sub>2</sub>                       | %                 | 0.062          | ±0.002               |
| V <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>          | %                 | 0.009          | ±0.002               |
| ASSIGNED VALUES (FOR INFORMATION ONLY) |                   |                |                      |
| ANALYTES                               | UNITS             | CONCENTRATIONS | EXPANDED UNCERTAINTY |
| SG                                     | g/cm <sup>3</sup> | 4.86           | ±0.05                |

**1. Use:**

QCRM-4-133 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 Iron Ore and as a calibration standard for the calibration of equipment used for analysing similar materials.

**2. Origin of Material:**

This standard was sponsored by Anglo Technical Services, in Johannesburg.

**3. Mineral and Chemical Composition:**

This Hematite iron ore deposit is classified as the Superior-Type Banded Iron Formation of the Transvaal Supergroup. It consists of ferruginous conglomerates of the Gamagara Formation which unconformably overlie supergene-enriched iron formation of the Asbestos Hill Subgroup. The Iron (Fe) containing assemblages of this material are made up of 92% Hematite and 2% Goethite with minor to trace amounts of limonite.

**4. Date of Initial Issue:**

19 December 2023.

**5. Packaging & Handling instructions:**

The material was packaged as 50g 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 prepared by Anglo Technical Services, according to their internal Preparation and QA/QC requirements, with 100% passing through a 300-micron classifier. It was then blended and packaged under nitrogen, into ± 50-gram foil sachets. Randomly selected samples (selection done by Qotho Minerals), from the final packaged batch, were tested by the Anglo Technical Services laboratory, to confirm homogeneity. Statistical analysis of both homogeneity and the consensus test results were carried out via PROLab Plus Software, by Qotho Minerals. The material was deemed homogeneous, according to our internal statistical protocol, by Qotho.

**7. Methods of Analysis used:**

- Fused beads with XRF finish
- Pressed pellet with XRF finish
- Iron by acid digestion and Potentiometric Titration
- Iron by sodium peroxide fusion Potentiometric Titration
- Sodium by multi-acid digestion and ICP-OES finish
- LOI by thermal combustion analysis
- Sulphur by thermal combustion analysis.

**8. Analysis required:**

An instruction letter was sent to all participants. The analysis required was noted in the instruction letter and reporting template, including but not limited to Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, BaO, CaO, Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Fe, FeO, K<sub>2</sub>O, LOI (1000°C), MgO, Mn, Na<sub>2</sub>O, P, S, SiO<sub>2</sub>, TiO<sub>2</sub>, V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and SG.

**9. Participating Laboratories:**

| NO  | LABORATORY                                  | COUNTRY      |
|-----|---|--------------|
| 1.  | Afrimat Iron Ore                            | South Africa |
| 2.  | Anglo Technical Solutions                   | South Africa |
| 3.  | Assmang Beeshoek                            | South Africa |
| 4.  | Bureau Veritas Minerals Perth Iron Bridge   | Australia    |
| 5.  | Bureau Veritas Minerals Perth XRF           | Australia    |
| 6.  | Cawood Laboratories                         | South Africa |
| 7.  | FLSmidth South Africa                       | South Africa |
| 8.  | Intertek Durban                             | South Africa |
| 9.  | Intertek Gabon                              | Gabon        |
| 10. | Intertek Genalysis Australia                | Australia    |
| 11. | Kolomela Laboratory                         | South Africa |
| 12. | Metex Thabazimbi Laboratory                 | South Africa |
| 13. | MSALabs Canada                              | Canada       |
| 14. | Palabora Mining Company                     | South Africa |
| 15. | Schutter Global & Inspection Survey Co. Ltd | China        |
| 16. | SGS Randfontein                             | South Africa |
| 17. | Sishen Iron Ore (Kumba)                     | South Africa |
| 18. | Thyssenkrupp Steel Europe                   | Germany      |

**10. Assay Data:**

Data used for Assigning Values and Certification.

| LABORATORY | Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | BaO   | CaO   | Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | Fe     | FeO (Fe <sup>2+</sup> ) | K <sub>2</sub> O | LOI (1000 °C) | MgO     | Mn    | Na <sub>2</sub> O | P     | S     | SG                | SiO <sub>2</sub> | TiO <sub>2</sub> | V <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> |
|------------|--------------------------------|-------|-------|--------------------------------|--------|-------------------------|------------------|---------------|---------|-------|-------------------|-------|-------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| UNIT       | %                              | %     | %     | %                              | %      | %                       | %                | %             | %       | %     | %                 | %     | %     | g/cm <sup>3</sup> | %                | %                | %                             |
| LAB001     |                                | 0.02  |       |                                |        |                         |                  |               | 0.006   | 0.043 | 0.007             |       | 0.01  |                   |                  | 0.062            |                               |
| LAB002     | 1.315                          | 0.024 | 0.145 | 0.036                          | 63.195 | 0.525                   | 0.181            | 0.42          | 0.03    | 0.02  | 0.015             | 0.056 | 0.009 | 4.87              | 7.15             | 0.05             | 0.007                         |
| LAB003     | 1.312                          | 0.011 | 0.145 | 0.029                          | 63.213 |                         |                  | 0.365         | 0.039   | 0.026 | 0.017             | 0.054 |       | 4.444             | 7.165            |                  | 0.009                         |
| LAB004     |                                |       |       |                                | 63.063 |                         |                  |               |         |       |                   |       |       |                   |                  |                  |                               |
| LAB005     | 1.27                           | 0.022 | 0.14  | 0.022                          |        |                         | 0.181            | 0.325         | 0.045   | 0.02  | 0.033             | 0.055 | 0.005 | 4.85              | 7.01             | 0.06             | 0.005                         |
| LAB006     | 1.287                          |       | 0.135 |                                |        |                         | 0.177            |               | 0.034   | 0.024 |                   | 0.058 | 0.011 |                   | 7.114            | 0.061            |                               |
| LAB007     | 1.378                          | 0.017 | 0.141 | 0.041                          |        |                         | 0.178            |               |         | 0.024 | 0.026             | 0.057 | 0.013 |                   | 7.084            | 0.067            | 0.014                         |
| LAB008     | 1.276                          |       | 0.131 |                                |        |                         | 0.176            |               | 0.027   | 0.022 |                   | 0.057 | 0.013 |                   | 7.079            | 0.064            |                               |
| LAB009     | 1.25                           |       | 0.154 |                                | 63.08  |                         | 0.177            | 0.43          | 0.038   | 0.02  | 0.057             | 0.057 |       |                   | 7.095            |                  |                               |
| LAB010     | 1.296                          |       | 0.145 | 0.036                          |        |                         | 0.177            |               | 0.04    | 0.025 |                   | 0.055 | 0.008 |                   | 7.155            |                  | 0.007                         |
| LAB011     | 1.365                          |       | 0.117 |                                |        | 80.715                  |                  |               |         |       |                   | 0.057 |       |                   | 7.474            |                  |                               |
| LAB012     | 1.335                          |       | 0.136 |                                | 63.498 |                         | 0.174            | 0.4           | < 0.053 | 0.026 | < 0.107           | 0.057 | 0.011 | 4.9               | 7.082            | 0.062            | < 0.006                       |
| LAB013     | 1.32                           | 0.022 | 0.137 |                                | 63.369 |                         | 0.177            | 0.387         | 0.05    | 0.021 |                   | 0.057 | 0.012 |                   | 7.105            | 0.059            | 0.008                         |
| LAB014     | 1.317                          |       | 0.125 | 0.033                          | 63.236 |                         | 0.178            | 0.448         | 0.025   | 0.024 | 0.018             | 0.056 | 0.009 |                   | 7.249            | 0.061            |                               |
| LAB015     | 1.29                           | 0.028 | 0.14  | 0.035                          | 63.25  |                         | 0.18             | 0.445         | 0.04    | 0.026 | 0.03              | 0.055 | 0.01  |                   | 7.075            | 0.06             | 0.008                         |
| LAB016     |                                | 0.019 | 0.137 | 0.045                          |        |                         |                  |               | 0.018   |       | 0.024             | 0.056 |       |                   |                  | 0.064            | 0.01                          |
| LAB017     | 1.281                          |       | 0.142 |                                | 63.375 |                         | 0.177            |               |         | 0.029 |                   | 0.064 |       |                   |                  | 0.061            |                               |
| LAB018     | 1.37                           | 0.03  |       |                                |        |                         |                  | 0.405         |         |       |                   |       | 0.008 |                   | 6.985            | 0.065            | 0.01                          |
| LAB019     | 1.288                          |       | 0.136 | 0.027                          | 63.41  |                         | 0.176            | 0.444         | 0.033   | 0.027 |                   | 0.058 | 0.011 | 4.838             | 7.134            | 0.06             |                               |
| LAB020     |                                | 0.018 |       |                                |        |                         |                  |               | 0.004   | 0.054 | 0.005             |       | 0.011 |                   |                  | 0.061            |                               |
| LAB021     | 1.352                          |       | 0.136 |                                | 63.487 |                         | 0.175            | 0.391         | < 0.053 | 0.026 | < 0.107           | 0.057 | 0.009 | 4.915             | 7.123            | 0.059            | 0.015                         |
| LAB022     |                                | 0.019 | 0.136 | 0.045                          |        |                         |                  |               | 0.019   |       | 0.025             | 0.055 |       |                   |                  | 0.068            | 0.045                         |
| LAB023     | 1.28                           | 0.02  | 0.14  | 0.022                          |        |                         | 0.182            | 0.32          | 0.04    | 0.02  | 0.033             | 0.057 | 0.005 | 4.85              | 7.02             | 0.06             | 0.005                         |
| LAB024     | 1.305                          | 0.024 | 0.14  | 0.035                          | 63.255 | 0.555                   | 0.18             | 0.455         | 0.025   | 0.025 | < 0.010           | 0.056 | 0.009 | 4.89              | 7.105            | 0.055            | 0.007                         |
| LAB025     | 1.271                          |       | 0.137 |                                | 63.085 |                         | 0.174            |               |         | 0.029 |                   | 0.061 |       |                   |                  | 0.06             |                               |

| LABORATORY | Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | BaO   | CaO   | Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | Fe     | FeO (Fe <sup>2+</sup> ) | K <sub>2</sub> O | LOI (1000 °C) | MgO   | Mn    | Na <sub>2</sub> O | P     | S     | SG                | SiO <sub>2</sub> | TiO <sub>2</sub> | V <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> |
|------------|--------------------------------|-------|-------|--------------------------------|--------|-------------------------|------------------|---------------|-------|-------|-------------------|-------|-------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| UNIT       | %                              | %     | %     | %                              | %      | %                       | %                | %             | %     | %     | %                 | %     | %     | g/cm <sup>3</sup> | %                | %                | %                             |
| LAB026     | 1.303                          | 0.016 | 0.137 |                                | 63.325 |                         | 0.176            | 0.395         | 0.046 | 0.021 |                   | 0.055 | 0.012 |                   | 7.006            | 0.061            | 0.011                         |
| LAB027     | 1.336                          |       | 0.117 |                                |        | 80.815                  |                  |               |       |       |                   | 0.058 |       |                   | 7.317            |                  |                               |
| LAB028     | 1.325                          | 0.025 |       |                                |        |                         |                  | 0.39          |       |       |                   |       | 0.01  |                   | 6.865            | 0.065            | 0.01                          |
| LAB029     | 1.29                           | 0.028 | 0.14  | 0.035                          | 63.27  |                         | 0.18             | 0.455         | 0.035 | 0.026 | 0.03              | 0.055 | 0.01  |                   | 7.045            | 0.065            | 0.009                         |
| LAB030     | 1.279                          |       | 0.133 |                                |        |                         | 0.177            |               |       | 0.021 |                   | 0.057 | 0.011 |                   | 7.023            | 0.06             | 0.009                         |
| LAB031     | 1.371                          | 0.025 | 0.145 | 0.05                           |        |                         | 0.178            |               |       | 0.025 | 0.024             | 0.058 | 0.013 |                   | 7.139            | 0.067            | 0.01                          |
| LAB032     | 1.304                          | 0.012 | 0.162 | 0.029                          | 63.212 |                         |                  | 0.41          | 0.036 | 0.028 | 0.028             | 0.057 |       | 4.808             | 7.155            |                  | 0.009                         |
| LAB033     |                                |       |       |                                | 62.987 |                         |                  |               |       |       |                   |       |       |                   |                  |                  |                               |
| LAB034     | 1.308                          |       | 0.142 | 0.035                          |        |                         | 0.172            |               |       | 0.02  |                   | 0.057 | 0.007 |                   | 7.226            |                  | 0.007                         |
| LAB035     | 1.293                          |       | 0.131 | 0.028                          |        |                         | 0.178            | 0.442         | 0.033 | 0.027 |                   | 0.058 | 0.011 | 4.833             | 7.125            | 0.061            |                               |
| LAB036     | 1.245                          |       | 0.145 |                                | 63.295 |                         | 0.175            | 0.45          | 0.044 | 0.019 | 0.048             | 0.056 |       |                   | 7.08             |                  |                               |
| LAB037     | 1.29                           |       | 0.135 |                                | 63.156 |                         | 0.174            |               | 0.034 | 0.022 |                   | 0.058 | 0.011 |                   | 7.085            | 0.061            |                               |
| LAB038     | 1.33                           |       | 0.127 | 0.031                          | 63.192 |                         | 0.18             | 0.469         | 0.025 | 0.025 |                   | 0.057 |       |                   | 7.272            | 0.067            | 0.008                         |

**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 Iron PT Round 6 of 2023. The participating laboratories were each given 2 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:  $U_{CRM} = k u_{CRM}$ , 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:  $x_{CRM} \pm U_{CRM}$ .

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) | v (Degrees of Freedom) | k (Coverage Factor) | u (Standard Uncertainty) | 95% Measurement Uncertainty | Expanded Uncertainty |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | %                 | 0.032                             | 31                     | 2.040               | 0.007                    | ± 0.01                      | ± 0.02               |
| BaO                            | %                 | 0.006                             | 17                     | 2.110               | 0.002                    | ± 0.004                     | ± 0.004              |
| CaO                            | %                 | 0.008                             | 31                     | 2.040               | 0.002                    | ± 0.004                     | ± 0.004              |
| Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | %                 | 0.008                             | 17                     | 2.110               | 0.003                    | ± 0.006                     | ± 0.006              |
| Fe                             | %                 | 0.146                             | 19                     | 2.093               | 0.046                    | ± 0.09                      | ± 0.10               |
| K <sub>2</sub> O               | %                 | 0.003                             | 25                     | 2.060               | 0.001                    | ± 0.002                     | ± 0.002              |
| LOI (1000 °C)                  | %                 | 0.041                             | 19                     | 2.093               | 0.011                    | ± 0.02                      | ± 0.03               |
| MgO                            | %                 | 0.012                             | 23                     | 2.069               | 0.003                    | ± 0.006                     | ± 0.006              |
| Mn                             | %                 | 0.004                             | 29                     | 2.045               | 0.001                    | ± 0.002                     | ± 0.002              |
| Na <sub>2</sub> O              | %                 | 0.013                             | 15                     | 2.131               | 0.004                    | ± 0.008                     | ± 0.009              |
| P                              | %                 | 0.002                             | 31                     | 2.040               | 0.001                    | ± 0.002                     | ± 0.002              |
| S                              | %                 | 0.002                             | 24                     | 2.064               | 0.001                    | ± 0.002                     | ± 0.002              |
| SG                             | g/cm <sup>3</sup> | 0.054                             | 9                      | 2.262               | 0.021                    | ± 0.04                      | ± 0.05               |
| SiO <sub>2</sub>               | %                 | 0.093                             | 29                     | 2.045               | 0.020                    | ± 0.04                      | ± 0.04               |
| TiO <sub>2</sub>               | %                 | 0.002                             | 27                     | 2.052               | 0.001                    | ± 0.002                     | ± 0.002              |
| V <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>  | %                 | 0.002                             | 20                     | 2.086               | 0.001                    | ± 0.002                     | ± 0.002              |

**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/IEC 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/IEC 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> |
| <b>19 December 2023</b>                    |   |

*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.*

END