

SECTION 8.5

VEGETATION SAMPLING

1.0 Purpose

To describe the method for collecting samples of vegetation.

2.0 Responsibilities

- The site coordinator is responsible for assuring that this procedure is implemented.
- Survey team personnel are responsible for following this procedure.

3.0 Procedure

3.1 Equipment

- ✓ Knife, shears, or similar cutting tool.
- ✓ Plastic bags, medium size.
- ✓ Burlap bags.
- ✓ Masking tape.
- ✓ Baggage tags.
- ✓ Labels and security seals.
- ✓ Indelible pen.
- ✓ Record forms and/or logbook.
- ✓ Cleaning supplies, as appropriate (see Section 10).

3.2 Sample Collection

3.2.1 Cut vegetation of desired type from selected location as close as possible to the surface. Alternatively, specific plant structures may be collected, dependent upon the survey scope. If the root system is collected, remove adhered soil by gently shaking. Any remaining soil will be removed in the laboratory.

3.2.2 Collect a total of approximately 1 kg of vegetation.

- 3.2.3 Place the sample in a plastic bag (if water is to be retained in the vegetation) or burlap bag (if vegetation is acceptable dry).
- 3.2.4 Secure the top of the bag with masking tape.
- 3.2.5 Attach a baggage tag.
- 3.2.6 Label and secure in accordance with Section 8.15 and the chain-of-custody procedures in Section 8.16. Record pertinent information on the Chain-of-Custody Form (Figure B-16 or equivalent).
- 3.2.7 Record all pertinent information on the Miscellaneous Sample Record Forms (Figure B-17 or equivalent) and/or the site logbook.
- 3.2.8 Clean sampling equipment, as necessary, before proceeding with further sample collection in accordance with instructions in Section 4.5.