

eLearning Programme

Samancta Course takeaways

This is a quick and handy summary of the most relevant course information.

1 Learning objectives

By the end of this course, you will:

- understand the purpose and legal relevance of Samancta,
- understand in detail how to use Samancta and its sampling procedures
- learn to navigate through Samancta,
- identify the importance of health and safety precaution.

You will also be able to recognise:

- the importance of following a standard procedure in collecting representative samples as evidence for official testing.

Samancta, developed by the European Commission for the use of its Member States, provides **best practice guidelines for sampling** and is an important tool for customs officers that need guidance through the process of searching for a **sampling procedure card**. As it is vital that customs officers know how to take and handle samples for official laboratory testing, the course focuses on a **practical approach**, with a lot of **real life scenarios**.

2 Introduction to Samancta

Samancta enables the user to have access to the most up-to-date and accurate sampling information alongside local information sources. The benefits of using Samancta are:

- maintaining a high level of quality and consistency in the samples taken,
- ensuring every sample meets the requirements for official testing purposes and is delivered with seals intact,
- creating a standard approach for the labelling, storage and transportation of samples,
- ensuring the chain of evidence is not broken as everyone follows the same sampling plan.

3 Navigating Samancta

- Samancta consists of a number of **sections that provide the user with all the information they need** in order to successfully take samples from products:
 - **Terms and definitions**
 - **Legal basis** (relevant areas of legislation used as a basis for the application)

- **Health and safety** (for example, hazardous substances, safety clothing and safety symbols)
- **Standards** (list of EN and ISO standards)
- **General principles** (including particular areas like the sampling form and sampling dangerous goods)
- **Sampling procedure cards** (which procedure card is suitable to a certain good, according to its properties)
- **Sampling tools and containers** (the correct sampling tools and sample containers suitable for the type of goods)
- **Ethnic glossary** (translations of common words and terms)
- **Training guide** (general guide to Samancta and its use)
- **Website for EU custom labs** (website link)

4 Using Samancta in detail

- **Sampling methods:**
 - The **method** used depends on:
 - The purpose of sampling,
 - The type of goods or commodity,
 - The uniformity of the goods or commodity,
 - The size of the consignment of goods or commodity.
- **Sampling plan:**
 - Check the available information about the goods,
 - Familiarise yourself with the sampling situation, including any previously prepared Health and Safety information,
 - Prepare the necessary sampling tools and sample containers,
 - Check any specific rules or recommendations regarding the sampling of goods in question.
- The different **ways to search for sampling procedure cards** within Samancta are:
 - By the HS Heading,
 - By product type,
 - Hierarchical search.
 - You can check the definition of the goods to make sure the selected card is the right one. The card advises what equipment is needed, describes the sampling plan and the sampling procedure, what to record on the sampling form and the conditions for transporting and storing the samples.

5 Where can you find Samancta data or access the Samancta system

Further detailed information on Samancta and access to Samancta data can be found on the EUROPA website:

https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/dds2/SAMANCTA/EN/index_EN.htm.

Remember, this is a quick and handy summary of the most relevant course information. Only the European Union legislation published in the Official Journal of the European Union is deemed authentic. The Commission accepts no responsibility or liability whatsoever with regard to the training.