

12.0 SAMPLING METHODOLOGY

The pitting techniques are described in considerable detail by Geovic (2003) and Burcham (2003). PAH observed sampling and processing at the adjacent Nkamouna deposit during the period September 1-3, 2004, but no pitting activity was in progress at Mada at that time or subsequently.

The sample bags normally used by Geovic were white double-thickness polyester, with a drawstring at the neck and a label sewn inside the neck. The geologist wrote the sample identifier on the inside label and on the outside of the bag, with a permanent marking pen.


12.1 *Pit Sampling*

Sampling at Mada was entirely from pits, dug by local labor crews using simple hand tools. A standard pitting crew (at Nkamouna), consisting of two people, is shown in Figure 12-1. A Nkamouna pit photo is presented as Figure 12-2. The standard equipment for a crew consisted of hard hats, a steel pry bar, a bucket, rope, a shovel handle or scoop, and steel-toed rubber boots and a harness. Each pit is normally circular in section and 1.25 meters in diameter, although the diameter may vary slightly.

Spoil not included in the sampling program from the pit was deposited in piles around the pit, but was not rigorously segregated by depth interval. Changes in texture (breccia, limonite) or conspicuous changes in color warranted segregation. A sample was collected each meter by cutting a rectangular groove in one wall of the pit, measuring 10 by 5 centimeters. When more than one sample was collected from an interval concurrently, they were oriented following the main cardinal compass points (N, E, W, S). Each pit was visited once or several times daily by a geologist to log geology, check channel progress, collect the samples from the intervals extended in his absence, and to decide whether to continue digging.



Two-man pitting crew with basic equipment; hard-hat, boots, steel bar, rope, harness for descending and ascending the pit if the walls are rendered slippery by precipitation.

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FIGURE 12-1
TWO-MAN PITTING CREW WITH
BASIC EQUIPMENT (Pit in Foreground)

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Drawing Name
Fig12-1.cdr



Indentations in far pit wall are access footholds for pitting crew.

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FIGURE 12-2
PIT, SHOWING PRIOR DRILLHOLE
IN FAR CORNER & FOUR ADDITIONAL
SAMPLING CHANNELS

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