Appendix VIII: Determination of Foreign Matter

Foreign matter is material consisting of any of the following –

(1) The biological origin of which is the same as that specified in the monograph concerned but the appearance or botanical part is different.

(2) The biological origin of which differs from that specified in the monograph concerned.

(3) Foreign mineral matters such as stones, sand, lumps of soil.

Method and Procedure –

(1) Weigh 100-500 g of CMM sample and spread in a thin layer. Sort the foreign matter into groups either by visual inspection, using a magnifying lens (5-10 ×), or with the help of a suitable sieve.

(2) Weigh each group of foreign matter separately, and calculate the percentage of foreign matter in the weight of CMM sample.

Note 1: In case of close resemblance between the foreign matters and the bulk sample in appearance, use microscopic, physical or chemical methods to identify the foreign matter.

Note 2: For large-sized sample, cut it off when necessary, so as to examine any signs of spoil or contamination by insects and moulds.

Limits – The amount of foreign matter in CMM samples should not be more than the percentage specified in the individual monograph.