

representative sample

A sample resulting from a sampling plan that can be expected to adequately reflect the properties of interest of the parent population. A representative sample may be a random sample or, for example, a stratified sample, depending upon the objective of sampling and the characteristics of the population. The degree of representativeness of the sample may be limited by cost or convenience.

Source:

PAC, 1990, 62, 1193 (*Nomenclature for sampling in analytical chemistry (Recommendations 1990)*) on page 1202