scientifically based rationalization measures. This includes the expedients mentioned in the ICH Stability Guideline:

Bracketing
Matrixing

Both methods are based on the assumption that a reduced number of investigated samples is representative of the stability behavior of all samples.

In bracketing, only "limit samples" are tested, for example: the lowest and highest dosage, the smallest and largest container.

In matrixing, selection is performed according to a statistical procedure (random number).

A rational bracketing system for all dosage forms would be as in Table 5.

A rational matrixing system would be as in Table 6.

Table 5

Dosages	Samples tested
1–2	all
3–4	highest lowest
>4	highest middle lowest

Table 6

Test sample	Tests
Beginning, end	all
Intermediate values	1/3 or 2/3 design[a]

[a] At each testing point 1/3 or 2/3 of all samples are analyzed.

2.9. Packaging Materials

At higher temperatures, desorption and loss of moisture also occurs at higher relative humidities.

Unless packaging materials impermeable to water vapour are used for stress tests with solid dosage forms, the samples lose moisture at different rates in the temperature range 40–60°C, and the results are not suitable for a reaction kinetics calculation.

Packaging materials permeable to water vapor can however also result in a falsification of the results for semisolid and liquid dosage forms if varying degrees of weight loss occur that lead to differences in the active ingredient concentration or ion strength.

The use of inert standard packaging materials that are impermeable to water vapor is thus an important precondition for stress tests that are to be evaluated in terms of reaction kinetics, and on the results of which stability predictions are to be based.