

IMPORTED OVERLAND • SUPPLY SUSPENDED

Afghan Coal

Until October 2025 the main fuel for northern Pakistan's cement plants: high heat, low moisture and low sulphur, delivered by road through Torkham and Chaman.

SOURCE AREA northern Jurassic coalfields (Dara-i-Suf, Samangan; Karkar-Dudkash, Baghlan)	RANK Sub-bituminous to high-volatile bituminous	SUPPLY Suspended — Pakistan-Afghanistan border closed since 11 Oct 2025
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Specification

Parameter	Basis	Dara-i-Suf lab sample	Market trade range	Test method
Gross calorific value	AR	≈ 5,210 kcal/kg (21.81 MJ/kg)	6,000 – 6,800 kcal/kg	ASTM D5865 / ISO 1928
Moisture	AR	4.95%	6 – 10%	ASTM D3302 / ISO 589
Ash	AR	15.7%	8 – 14%	ASTM D3174 / ISO 1171
Volatile matter	AR	30.95%	28 – 40%	ASTM D3175 / ISO 562
Fixed carbon	AR	48.4%	40 – 55%	ASTM D3172
Total sulphur	—	not reported	below 1%	ASTM D4239 / ISO 19579
Size	—	—	0.5–5, 5–10, 10–25, 25–50, 50+ mm	ASTM D4749

Lab sample = one published Dara-i-Suf analysis; trade range = a published market specification. Supply suspended while the border is closed.

Best suited for: Cement kilns in northern Pakistan (when the border is open) • Boilers needing high heat with low moisture

Market notes

- Lab sample: Dara Souf coal tested at moisture 4.95%, ash 15.7%, volatile matter 30.95%, fixed carbon 48.4%, calorific value 21.81 MJ/kg². Market range from a Pakistani coal trader's published Afghan specification³.
- Afghan coals are sub-bituminous to high-volatile bituminous, and quality varies widely by seam and area⁷. Proven reserves are about 73 Mt, with potential resources of 100 – 440 Mt⁵.
- Prices to Pakistan: US\$170 – 200/t in March 2022, when northern cement plants burned about 70% Afghan coal⁶; about Rs 43,000 – 45,000/t, expected to fall to about Rs 38,000/t, in August 2023⁴.
- The border closure from 11 Oct 2025 halted Afghan coal imports; producers shifted to South African (including RB2), Indonesian and Mozambican coal¹.

Indicative specification; final quality per the certificate of analysis of each cargo or lot. ARB as received • ADB air dried • NAR / GAR net / gross as received.

Sources: 1. Global Cement — Border closure halts Afghan coal imports (1 Dec 2025) — globalcement.com • 2. Omar et al. (2017), Proximate Analysis of Low and High Quality Pure Coal and their Blends from Pakistan, Austin Chem Eng 4(1):1048 — Dara Souf sample — austinpublishinggroup.com • 3. Hassan Coal Company — Afghan coal and local Quetta coal trade specifications — hassancoal.com • 4. Profit (Pakistan Today) — Afghan coal prices to Pakistan, 21 Aug 2023 — profit.pakistantoday.com.pk • 5. The News — 'Afghan coal', 1 Aug 2022 (reserves, planned volumes, US\$200/t) — www.thenews.com.pk • 6. Global Cement — North Pakistan cement plants and Afghan coal, 14 Mar 2022 — www.globalcement.com • 7. USGS Fact Sheet 2005-3073 — Assessing the coal resources of Afghanistan — escweb.wr.usgs.gov