

IMPORTED • FLAGSHIP GRADE

South African RB2

The benchmark imported thermal coal for Pakistani cement kilns and industrial boilers: a known 5,500 kcal/kg NAR band with sulphur at or below 1%.

SOURCE AREA Mpumalanga coalfields, shipped via Richards Bay Coal Terminal	RANK Bituminous steam coal (HS 2701.12)	SUPPLY Regular — seaborne to Port Qasim / Karachi, then by road
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Specification

Parameter	Basis	Typical	Range / limit	Test method
Calorific value	NAR	5,500 kcal/kg	5,300 – 5,700 kcal/kg	ASTM D5865 / ISO 1928
Calorific value (approx.)	GAR	≈ 5,850 kcal/kg	5,650 – 6,050 kcal/kg	ASTM D5865 / ISO 1928
Total moisture	ARB	12%	15% max	ASTM D3302 / ISO 589
Inherent moisture	ADB	3.5%	5% max	ASTM D3173
Ash	ADB	21%	24% max	ASTM D3174 / ISO 1171
Volatile matter	ADB	24%	22 – 28%	ASTM D3175 / ISO 562
Total sulphur	ADB	0.8%	1.0% max	ASTM D4239 / ISO 19579
Hardgrove grindability	—	52	45 – 65 HGI	ASTM D409
Ash fusion (IDT, reducing)	—	1,280 °C	1,250 °C min	ASTM D1857 / ISO 540
Size	—	0 – 50 mm	90% min passing 50 mm	ASTM D4749

Typical commercial specification for South African 5,500 NAR steam coal. Final quality per load-port certificate of analysis (CoA).

Latest Essa Energy lot analysis ⁴

SFTS report SFTS/4376/826 (RB2, tested 01 Oct 2026)

Total moisture (ARB)	Inherent moisture (ADB)	Volatile matter (ADB)	Ash (ADB)	Fixed carbon (ADB)	Total sulphur (ADB)	Gross calorific value (ADB)
9.2%	2.3%	24.9%	16.5%	56.3%	0.87%	6,106 kcal/kg

Lot well inside the RB2 specification: sulphur 0.87% (limit 1.0%) and ash 16.5% (limit 24%). 6,106 kcal/kg air-dried ≈ 5,675 kcal/kg gross as received at 9.2% total moisture.

Best suited for: Cement kilns (main fuel) • Industrial and process boilers • Base coal for blending with lower-cost local coal

Market notes

- South African grades are named by NAR: RB1 ≈ 6,000, RB2 ≈ 5,500 and RB3 ≈ 4,800 kcal/kg NAR ³.
- South Africa supplied about 83% of Pakistan's coal import value in Jan–Jun 2026 ¹.
- After the Afghan border closed on 11 Oct 2025, northern cement producers moved to imported coal and some began importing RB2 ².

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. TradeInt — Coal imports in Pakistan 2026 (Jan–Jun 2026, HS 2701) — tradeint.com • ². Global Cement — Border closure halts Afghan coal imports (1 Dec 2025) — globalcement.com • ³. BigMint — South African RB1 / RB2 / RB3 grade definitions (NAR) — bigmint.co • ⁴. Essa Energy lot analysis — SFTS report SFTS/4376/826 (RB2, tested 01 Oct 2026)