



INTERNATIONAL COTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1629 K Street NW, Suite 702, Washington, DC 20006 USA

Telephone (202) 463-6660 • Fax (202) 463-6950 • email secretariat@icac.org

From the Secretariat

For Release October 1, 2007

3rd CSITC ROUND TRIAL COMPLETED

The third Round Trial conducted under the auspices of the Task Force on Commercial Standardization of Instrument Testing of Cotton (CSITC RT 2007-3) was conducted during August and September 2007. 54 testing facilities with 69 instruments participated. Participating testing centers were located in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America. Five cotton samples with known values were mailed to each participating laboratory in August. Each laboratory tested each sample six times each day for five days. Each sample was tested for the six CSITC parameters of length, length uniformity index, micronaire, strength, Rd (reflectance) and +b (yellowness). All five of the samples were from upland saw ginned cotton.

Laboratory results were collected by USDA and forwarded to the Bremen Fibre Institute for evaluation. Laboratories were given an overall ranking, as well as rankings for performance on each of the six tests. Rankings were based on the first four upland cotton samples with known values. The purpose of the fifth cotton sample in all CSITC Round Trials is for special study purposes and is not used for performance-ranking. The names and results from each test center are confidential, but each testing facility receives an evaluation of its performance in the Round Trial and a detailed diagnostic analysis of results. The purpose of the CSITC Round Trial is to facilitate improved performance.

Rankings were based on the results of each lab in coming closest to the mean values for all laboratories participating in the Round Trial on all six measurements. The range of scores for the combined properties among the 69 instruments was 0.25 to 2.28 (a score of zero would be perfect), and the median overall evaluation of combined properties was 0.47. The results in CSITC RT 2007-3 are highly consistent with the results from RT 2007-1 and RT 2007-2. The average difference between the evaluation grades of identical instruments in comparison between RT 2007-1, RT 2007-2 and RT 2007-3 was 0.1, which means, that the evaluation of each single testing facility, and therefore its accuracy, is quite stable.

The typical inter-laboratory variations achieved by High Volume Testing, given as standard deviations, were:

CSITC RT 2007-3

Property	Standard Deviation based on Single Tests	Standard Deviation based on 30 Tests/Sample
Micronaire	0.09 mic	0.08 mic
Strength	1.44 g/tex	1.18 g/tex
Length	0.017 inches	0.011 inches
Length Unif.	0.79 units	0.48 units
Color Rd	1.14 units	1.05 units
Color +b	0.40 units	0.36 units

Summary Tables Available on the Web

Summary tables from the first three CSITC Round Trials are available on the web site: www.ICAC.org. The summary includes:

Inter-laboratory averages and variability and in-laboratory variability for each of the 6 properties and each of the five cotton samples.

Graphs showing the distributions for every property and each cotton.

A summary list of the combined properties evaluations.

A summary list of the evaluations for each property.

Benefits of Participation

Participants in CSITC Round Trials benefit by having detailed feedback that can be utilized to demonstrate measurement performance to customers and to address measurement related problems. Results will confirm the participant's ability to provide reproducible test measurements that are based on the established international standard. In addition, participation is a recommended practice for fulfilling quality management requirements in laboratories (e.g. ISO 17025).

Round Trial Cost & Sign-Up

Participation in the CSITC Round Trial is subsidized by USDA and the Bremen Fibre Institute, but a nominal fee of US\$75 per quarter, US\$300 per year for four trials, is charged to cover expenses associated with sample distribution.

To participate in future CSITC Round Trials, contact:

International Cotton Advisory Committee – CSITC

Email:

CSITCsecretariat@icac.org

Fax: 202-463-6950

66th ICAC Plenary Meeting

The work of the Task Force on CSITC will be discussed during the 66th Plenary Meeting of the ICAC in Izmir, Turkey, during 22-26 October 2007. The Task Force consists of 18 members representing all segments of the world cotton industry. The Task Force will meet on Sunday afternoon 21 October in the Hilton Hotel in Izmir. Observers are welcome, but observers must notify the ICAC Secretariat of their interest by sending an E-mail to CSITCsecretariat@icac.org.

(Press releases are available via e-mail. To register for this free service, send your contact information to publications@icac.org)

The International Cotton Advisory Committee is an association of 44 governments of countries with an interest in cotton. The Secretariat of the Committee publishes information related to world cotton production, supply, demand and prices, and provides technical information on cotton production technology. Detailed statistics are found bimonthly in *COTTON: Review of the World Situation*, \$170 per year via email, \$200 per year in hard copy. A monthly outlook is available by email for \$265 per year. Access to the latest weekly estimates of world cotton supply and use by the Secretariat is available on the Internet for \$420 per year. Access Secretariat reports at www.icac.org.