



INTERNATIONAL COTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Press Release October 13, 2010

15th CSITC ROUND TRIAL COMPLETED

The 15th Round Trial under the auspices of the Task Force on Commercial Standardization of Instrument Testing of Cotton (CSITC RT 2010-3) was conducted from July to September 2010. Seventy-seven testing laboratories with 123 instruments participated, by far the highest number of instruments in the history of the Round Trials.

The typical inter-laboratory variations achieved by instrument testing, given as standard deviations, were:

CSITC RT 2010-3

Property	Standard Deviation based on Single Tests	Standard Deviation based on 30 Tests/Sample
Micronaire	0.094 mic	0.080 mic
Strength	1.19 g/tex	0.86 g/tex
Length	0.017 inches	0.011 inches
Length Unif.	0.73 units	0.43 units
Color Rd	1.39 units	1.33 units
Color +b	0.51 units	0.46 units

Although the conditions are varying from Round Trial to Round Trial, the inter-laboratory variations achieved with participating instruments are very consistent. Unfortunately the Color results show that with the increasing number of participants, variation has slightly increased.

Laboratories are given an overall ranking, as well as rankings for performance on each of the six parameters. Results for each test center are confidential. Rankings are based on the results of each lab in coming closest to the mean (average) values for all laboratories participating in the Round Trial on all six parameters.

The range of scores for the combined properties among the 123 instruments was 0.23 to 2.08 (a score of zero would be perfect), and the median overall evaluation of combined properties was 0.55.

All public results can be downloaded from www.csitc.org → CSITC Round Trials → Round Trial results.

The ICAC Task Force on Commercial Standardization of Instrument Testing of Cotton (CSITC) conducts quarterly round trials to help establish international standardization of cotton classification based on the Universal Calibration Cotton Standards in order to promote efficiency in cotton production and marketing. All cotton testing centers around the world are encouraged to participate to ensure that their cotton testing results using high volume instruments are on the same level of accuracy and precision as other testing centers. Participation in the CSITC round trials is being sponsored through a project worth \$7.9 million involving the Common Fund for Commodities, the International Cotton Advisory Committee, the United States Department of Agriculture, the Fiber Institute of Bremen, Germany, and the European Community.