

16th CSITC ROUND TRIAL COMPLETED

The 16th Round Trial under the auspices of the Task Force on Commercial Standardization of Instrument Testing of Cotton (CSITC RT 2010-4) was conducted from October to December 2010. Even after the previous record high in participation in 2010-3, the number of active participants increased to now 80 testing facilities with 127 instruments worldwide.

For the 2011 Round Trial Series already 98 testing facilities registered. New participants can enroll by going on line to <csitc.org>, filling out the participation form and emailing it to drieling@faserinstitut.de with copy to CSITCsecretariat@icac.org.

For CSITC RT 2010-4, the typical inter-laboratory variations achieved by instrument testing, given as standard deviations, were:

Property	Standard Deviation based on Single Tests	Standard Deviation based on 30 Tests/Sample
Micronaire	0.075 mic	0.061 mic
Strength	1.25 g/tex	1.11 g/tex
Length	0.018 inches	0.014 inches
Length Unif.	0.88 units	0.64 units
Color Rd	1.46 units	1.40 units
Color +b	0.53 units	0.50 units

Due to the USDA-AMS donation of new micronaire calibration material to all participating laboratories it was possible to significantly decrease the inter-laboratory variation for Micronaire for all tested cottons.

Unfortunately the color results (Reflectance Rd and yellowness +b) still show a slight increase in inter-laboratory variation with the increasing number of participants.

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 127 instruments was 0.29 to 4.47 (a score of zero would be perfect), and the median overall evaluation of combined properties was 0.60.

All public results can be downloaded from <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 and the European Community as well as the International Cotton Advisory Committee, the United States Department of Agriculture and the Fiber Institute of Bremen, Germany.