

Commercial Standardization of Instrument Testing of Cotton - CSITC -

Documentation of Structures and Duties

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Attachment: Detailed description of the tasks and responsible bodies

1 Bodies involved in the CSITC Task Force activities

- ICAC ICAC
- CSITC Task Force Task Force
- CSITC Task Force Chairman Chairman
- CSITC Task Force members Members
- Cotton Associations Associations
- USDA, AMS USDA AMS
- FIBRE, Bremen FIBRE
- CIRAD, Montpellier CIRAD
- Regional Technical Centers in the CFC project CFC-RTC
- Regional Technical Centers RTC
- National Instrument Classing Institutions Class.
- Cotton Testing Facilities Lab.
- Public Public

2 Aims of the CSITC Task Force

- Facilitate the adoption of instrument testing as a basis for cotton quality evaluation and trading
- Facilitate the widespread use of instrument testing systems at the producer level
- Uphold and improve the reliability of instrument testing by:
 - encouraging improvements in instruments, and
 - encouraging improvements in the operation of cotton testing facilities
- Facilitate the adoption of instrument testing standards and procedures as defined by the Universal Cotton Standards Agreement.

3 Tasks of the CSITC Task Force

- Facilitate international cooperation leading to the commercial standardization of instrument testing of cotton
- Establish international standards for cotton testing (sampling, cotton testing method, calibration material, properties/parameters to be regarded)
- Facilitate the adoption of instrument testing values in international trade in cotton
- Provide information that will facilitate the use of instrument testing values as a basis for arbitration of quality disputes
- Configure a system for documenting instrument performance and for providing support to Cotton Testing Facilities
- Document instrument performance in CSITC Round Trials
- Provide global support to Regional Technical Centers (RTCs) and Cotton Testing Facilities
- Provide regional support to Cotton Testing Facilities by means of RTCs
- Ensure that calibration standards are produced in accordance with the Universal Cotton Standards Agreement
- Provide statistical information that can be used to establish commercial tolerances for cotton trade
- Encourage technology development in fiber testing.

4 Principal structure and duties

The International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) hosts the CSITC Task Force and appoints its members.

ICAC and the Chairman of CSITC Task Force prepare the agenda for CSITC Task Force meetings.

The CSITC Task Force assigns tasks to the Task Force or individual Task Force members.

The Task Force discusses findings and gives approvals or recommendations.

The work of the Task Force members is voluntary. For major tasks, the ICAC tries to find monetary support.

The ICAC, the CSITC Task Force or its members accept no legal responsibility for the results of their work.

The CSITC Task Force will not establish an international testing center as a reference, but

- provides information to cotton testing laboratories about their performance in CSITC Round Trials
- may add other measures of reference, such as regional round trials or regional retest activities
- supports laboratories to improve testing performance

The CSITC Task Force will not accredit any laboratories according to ISO 17025 or related standards; this is the assigned work of national certification bodies. But the Task Force facilitates support activities to laboratories to fulfill ISO 17025 necessities.

ICAC/ the CSITC Task Force will keep the public informed about its findings

- Inform all cotton stakeholders about the development in commercial standardization of instrument testing of cotton
- Inform cotton associations of CSITC recommendations
- Inform cotton laboratories of CSITC recommendations

The Task Force recommends development directions and fosters developments for commercially standardized high volume instrument testing in cooperation with the ITMF International Committee on Cotton Testing Methods (ITMF ICCTM).

The national instrument classing institutions and the cotton testing facilities as well as all stakeholders in the cotton value added chain are encouraged to apply the CSITC findings.

5 Summary of tasks / principal duties and CSITC bodies in a matrix

Task / Duty	ICAC	Task Force	Chairman*	Members*	Members: Associations*	Member: USDA AMS*	Member: FIBRE*	Member CIRAD*	CFC-RTC*	RTC
Host Task Force and appoint members	E	AR								
Prepare Task Force meeting agendas	E		E							
Facilitate international CSITC cooperation	S AR	AR	S	S			S	S		
Establish international standards for cotton testing		AR		S		S	S	S		
Facilitate the adoption of instrument testing in trade rules and provide information to use instrument testing for arbitration		D		E	E					
Configure a system for documenting instrument performance and for providing support to laboratories		AR	S	S		S	S	S		
Document instrument performance in CSITC Round Trials	H E	As D				E	E			
Provide global support to RTCs and labs	H	As		E		E	E	E		
Provide regional support to labs by RTC	H	As		S			S	S	E	E
Care for cotton calibration standards		AR				E				
Provide statistiscal information that can be used for commercial tolerances		AR		S		S	S	S		
Encourage technology development in fiber testing		D AR		S		S	S	S		
Inform public	E		E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E

* Note: "Members" includes all CSITC Task Force members. So the specifically mentioned members in the other columns (Associations, USDA etc.) are not meant to be excluded when there is a sign for members, but no sign in their column. Signs for the specifically mentioned members give more concrete information than only a sign in the members' column.

H = Head

As = Assign

AR = Approve or Recommend

E = Execute

S = Support

D = Discuss