Overview of the USDA Cotton Classification Program

Cotton Division Mission
To promote the efficient marketing of U.S. cotton, domestically and internationally, by providing unbiased classification, standardization, market news, and oversight of the cotton research and promotion programs.

Organizational Structure
USDA, Cotton Division

Organizational Structure

Mission & Function Areas of the Cotton Division

Cotton Division Locations
- Washington Headquarters
- Memphis Field Headquarters / Classing Office
- Classing Facilities (10 currently)
USDA Cotton Classification & Cotton Standardization Programs:

• Classification Program:
  ▪ Provides HVI and manual cotton classification on every bale of cotton produced in the U.S.

• Standardization Program:
  ▪ Develops, maintains and provides internationally accepted cotton classification standards to USDA classification program & other cotton testers throughout the world.

USDA Cotton Classification System:

• Every individual bale of cotton produced in U.S. is HVI classed by USDA.

• All USDA cotton classification is based on the Universal Cotton Standards.

• All USDA cotton classification is performed utilizing exactly the same procedures and standards in all USDA cotton classing locations.

• HVI data is available from USDA on every bale produced in the U.S.

Function Areas of Cotton Division

• Grading Branch
• Standardization & Engineering Branch
• Quality Assurance Branch
• Information Technology Staff
• Market News Branch
• Research & Promotion Staff
• Administrative Staff

USDA Cotton Classification

The Classification Process

Production & Modules

• Bale Sampling:
The Classification Process

Receiving → Traying → Conditioning → Data Dissemination → Classing → Instrument Testing

Fiber Properties Classified

By High Volume Instrument
- Official Color Grade
- Rd - Degree of Brightness
- +b - Degree of Color
- Trash - Percent Area Non-Lint
- Micronaire - Fineness of Fibers
- Length - Upper Half Mean (UHM)
- Length Uniformity - Uniformity of Fiber Lengths
- Strength - Grams per Tex

By USDA Certified Classer
- Official Leaf Grade
- Determined in Accordance with Universal Grade Standards
- Extraneous Matter Determination

HVI – High Volume Instrument Uster 1000

Color & Trash
Micronaire
Length
Strength
Uniformity

HVI 1000’s by Year Model in USDA Classification Service

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>#</th>
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<td>20</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>238</td>
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</tbody>
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USDA National Cotton Database (NDB)

- System for storing all USDA cotton classification data
- Housed in Memphis, Tennessee
- Data from all USDA cotton classing facilities are stored in the NDB
Quality Assurance

Quality Assurance Branch

- Ensure Adherence to Standards
- Administer check program to ensure consistency of all instruments and offices throughout Program
- Provide data feedback to offices on a daily basis
- Oversee and conduct classification of cotton delivered on the U.S. Cotton Futures Market

Quality Assurance Check Lot Program

10 Classing Office Labs
1% of All Cotton Classification Samples (random sampling)

Original Test Data
Retested Data Results

Quality Assurance Lab in Memphis, Tennessee
Retests samples

Standardization

Universal Cotton Standards for HVI Testing

- Micronaire
- Strength, Length, Uniformity Index
- Rd/U Color
- Trash
Universal Cotton Standards for HVI Testing

• Includes both physical calibration standards and HVI testing procedures
• Internationally accepted
• Maintained, produced and distributed by USDA
• Governed by the International Cotton Industry

Universal Cotton Standards Agreement of 1923

• Universal Standards governed by the Agreement
• Agreement between USDA, U.S. Cotton Industry & 23 Foreign Signatory Associations from 21 countries
• Provides delegates with a voice in governing the Universal Cotton Standards

Universal Standards Adopted by:

- Bangladesh
  • Bangladesh Textile Mills Association
- Belgium
  • Association Contenador De Belgique
- Brazil
  • Associação Brasileira de Tecido e Fibras
- Britain
  • Empire of British Cotton Textiles
- Canada
  • The Liverpool Cotton Association Ltd
- China
  • China National Textile Association
- Denmark
  • Danmark Cotton Association
- Egypt
  • Cotton Research Association of Egypt
- France
  • US Cotton Association Association Francaise Cotonniere
- Germany
  • Deutsche Algodoneros’ and Textile Associations’ International Cotton Trade Association
- Greece
  • Greek Cotton Association
- Indonesia
  • Indonesia Textile Association
- India
  • Indian Textile Mill Owners Association
- Italy
  • Italian Cotton Spinners Association
- Japan
  • Japan Cotton Arbitration Institute
- Korea
  • Korean Spinning & Weaving Association
- Malaysia
  • Malaysia Textile Industry Association
- Mexico
  • Asociacion Nacional de la Industria Textil
- Mexico
  • Centro Textil de la Sociedad Nacional de Industria
- Philippines
  • Textile Industry Association of the Philippines
- Poland
  • Polska Spinnery Cotone Lan
- Portugal
  • Portuguese Cotton Association
- Spain
  • Asociacion de Spinnery Cotone Lan
- Sri Lanka
  • Sri Lanka Cotton Association
- Switzerland
  • Swiss Cotton Association
- Turkey
  • Turkish Cotton Association
- U.S.
  • U.S. Cotton Association
- Uzbekistan
  • Uzbekistan Cotton Association
- Ukraine
  • Ukraine Cotton Association
- Vietnam
  • Vietnam Cotton Association
- Zimbabwe
  • Zimbabwe Cotton Association

The Universal Cotton Standards Used by Over 50 Countries Worldwide

- Major Users:
  - Australia
  - China
  - France
  - Uzbekistan
  - India
  - England
  - Indonesia
  - Japan
  - Spain
  - Thailand
  - Korea
  - Italy
  - Turkey
  - S. Africa
  - Switzerland
  - Greece
  - Pakistan
  - USA
  - Brazil
  - Israel
  - Zimbabwe
  - Portugal
  - Argentina
  - Ghana

HVI Calibration Materials

Prepared Annually:
- 200 Sets of Color Tiles
- 200 Trash Tiles
- 100 HVI Color Standards
- 50 HVI Trash Standards

20,000 kg of Cotton for Calibrating HVI Length, Strength, Uniformity and Micronaire Prepared Annually

Non-Instrument Universal Standards: Manual Grade Standards

2700 Physical Forms of Official Color and Leaf Grade Standards for U.S. Upland Cotton and 300 Physical Forms of Official Grade Standards for American Pima Cotton Reproduced Every Year
The Universal Cotton Standards for HVI Testing & Manual Grade

Obtaining:
Contact cotton.standards@ams.usda.gov to obtain: order forms, information on ordering, technical questions, and to place orders.

Market News

Provide current and timely price and supply information on cotton and aid buyers and sellers in assessing market conditions and in making purchase and sale decisions.

Gathering Market Data

Data From All Sources Collected and Analyzed

Textile Manufacturer
Cotton Producers
Other Government Agencies
Cotton Market News Reporter
Cotton Merchants
USDA Classing Laboratories

Turning Data Into Reports

Analyzed Data from Reporters is Reviewed and Compiled at Branch Headquarters

Daily Spot Cotton Quotations
Weekly Cotton Market Review
Weekly Quality of Cotton Classed
Monthly/Annual Cotton Price Statistics
Other Monthly/Annual Specialty Reports

Getting Reports to Customers

Internet
Mail
E-Mail
Visitors

Customers

Textile Manufacturers
Cotton Producers
Cotton Merchants
Other Gov’t Agencies

Market News on the Internet

Cotton Program Market News:
www.ams.usda.gov/cotton/mnecs/

- Weekly Cotton Market Review
- Cotton Quality
- Cotton Prices
- Cotton Linters
- Long Staple Review
- Cotton Varieties
Research And Promotion

A small assessment paid on each U.S. bale and on imported cotton goods funds research and promotion of cotton and cotton products.

Overview of the USDA Cotton Classification Program

United States Department of Agriculture Agricultural Marketing Service Cotton Division

Website: http://www.ams.usda.gov/cotton

How the R&P Program Works