

CSITC Round Trials

The ICAC Task Force on Commercial Standardization of Instrument Testing of Cotton (CSITC) conducts quarterly round trials to establish international standardization of cotton classification based on the Universal Cotton Calibration 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 Uster HVI equipment and other testing instruments are on the same level of accuracy as other test centers. The CSITC evaluation is based on test results and is not dependent on the manufacturer, model, or kind of testing instrument used.

Participants in the trials receive five cotton samples from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, four times per round-trial-year (Jan/RT1, Apr/RT2, Jul/RT3, Oct/RT4). Four of the samples are used for evaluation of instrument accuracy; the fifth sample is used for evaluating performance of various cotton types (e.g. roller ginned cotton). Each sample is tested thirty times (5 days, 6 tests per day). Participants upload results from their testing instrument to the CSITC.org website to be analyzed by Faserinstitut Bremen, Germany. Participants benefit by receiving detailed diagnostic feedback on their performance that can be utilized to demonstrate measurement performance to customers and to address measurement related problems. Results confirm the participant's ability to provide reproducible test measurements that are based on the established international standards. Participants that submit results receive official recognition.

Since the CSITC round trials program started in 2007, participation has been sponsored through a project 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. Only a nominal fee has been charged to cover sample shipping. Unfortunately, the project is coming to an end in December 2011. A new fee is being assessed in 2012

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