

# **BREMEN 2006 REPORT - Ralph Schulze**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The following Report covers my participation in a series of meetings at Bremen, Germany, in late March 2006 - including;

20.3.06; **CSITC** 'small technical group' meeting

21.3.06; International Textile Manufacturers Federation (**ITMF**)

'working group' meetings on - Cotton Fibre Maturity, Stickiness, Neps and Trash, Fibre Length, and HVI.

22.3.06; **ITMF Cotton Technical Steering Committee** (am).

**CSITC** Full Meeting (pm).

23.3.06; **ITMF Cotton Conference** - included a forum on

'International Harmonisation of Instrument Testing' - self on panel.

24.3.06; **ITMF Cotton Conference** - included reports from earlier specialist technical sessions' and on measurement technology.

Other Australian participants included; Geoff Naylor and Stuart Gordon who sat in on the CSITC full meeting and the ITMF Forum, and made presentations during the technical sessions and conference; Allan Williams who sat in on the CSITC full meeting and ITMF Conference; and Hilton Lobb who chaired a session of the Conference.

The following summary of main points should be read in conjunction with the ICAC report on the 5<sup>th</sup> CSITC Meeting- attached. That report is an updated and ongoing one, so that all decisions and outputs can be considered in context.

## **SUMMARY of MAIN POINTS**

1. Regarding the evaluation of test centres, the adoption of Evaluation System Number 2 was recommended by the small technical working group- and was adopted. This considers the relative distance of individual results from the inter lab mean, and was considered the best compromise between statistical rigour and commercial practicability.
2. Future Round Test will use a 90% trimmed mean as the inter lab mean- this excludes the extreme plus or minus 5%.
3. Test Centre evaluation, including the implementation of a rating system, will demonstrate capability to meet recommended standards, but would not automatically ensure accuracy for individual commercial tests. The evaluation will be 'performance' and 'accuracy' based and will cover all fibre parameters- to achieve a composite result. It will not be dependent on any one make of equipment.
4. The draft procedure for future regular Round Trials is included in the attached ICAC Report (pages 6-9). Some parts of the draft,

- e.g., Part C, concerning data release, require further consideration and clarification (follow up already underway).
5. A second special CSITC Round Test is underway. Homogenised test material has been prepared by USDA and the analysis work will be shared between Bremen and USDA, Memphis.
  6. Whether or not a third round, probably including 'representative foreign types', should be conducted is an issue raised outside the last CSITC meeting, and will be discussed by email over the next few weeks.
  7. Moisture content of samples can significantly influence test results – even within the currently accepted range. New technology has been developed to help counter this (and is being incorporated into some new Uster machines). The effectiveness of this, and other methodology, will soon be considered by CSITC.
  8. The related issue of bale moisture content- and suggestions regarding 'standardisation' (7.5% gr.wt., 7.0% dry.wt. ?)-was raised during the ITMF Cotton Conference. Although CSITC has been asked for input, the issue should be considered by a broader audience- recommended for inclusion in the ICAC agenda for Brazil.
  9. CSITC is seeking input from the ITMF working groups on the practicability of adjusting colour readings to offset the effects of trash content.
  10. The issue of differentiating between fineness and maturity was again raised at CSITC. Its incorporation into the standardised international testing system will be considered only after the technology has proven to be commercially acceptable and viable – need, demand, cost, speed, repeatability etc. These comments also apply to other potential measurements e.g., Neps/ SFC, Trash, and Stickiness.
  11. The next meeting of the CSITC Task Force will be in Goiania, Brazil, on 10.9.06. An ICAC Plenary discussion on the topic is planned for 12.9.06 and related matters will also be discussed at the World Cotton Research Conference committee meeting to be held during the ICAC conference. In the meantime interaction between CSITC members will be considerable, but mainly conducted electronically.
  12. Participants at Bremen felt that ITMF's cotton activities, including ICCTM, needed to be reviewed and refocussed. A new Steering Committee has been appointed by ITMF to address this.

RALPH SCHULZE June 2006.