

INTER WOOLLABS

International Association of Wool Textile Laboratories
Association Internationale de Laboratoires Textiles Lainiers
Internationale Gesellschaft der Wolltextillaboratorien

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RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CONCERNING THE EQUIPMENT OF LABORATORIES CARRYING OUT FIBRE LENGTH MEASUREMENTS ON WOOL TOPS BY MEANS OF THE **ALMETER**

I. **MINIMUM CRITERIA**

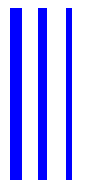
In order to carry out fineness measurements on wool tops by means of the ALMETER apparatus and consequently satisfy the minimum required criteria, a laboratory **must compulsorily**:

A. **Be equipped with:**

- 1) an analogue or digital ALMETER apparatus with automatic or manual grip;
 - 2) a set of standard sheets provided by the constructor. According to the type of apparatus, these standards consist in one or more calibration lozenges, eventually completed with a set of trapezium standards;
 - 3) an Air-Conditioning system that is capable of maintaining the Standard Testing Atmosphere as defined below:
 - the temperature which must be maintained at 20°C + or - 2°C,
 - the relative humidity which must be maintained 65% + or - 3%RH;
 - 4) a thermometer
 - 5) a hygrometer
- } may be incorporated or associated in a recording instrument;
- 6) a wet and dry bulb aspiration psychrometer (of the Assmann type) or any other apparatus for checking the relative humidity and linked to the reference standards;

B. **Strictly apply**

The most up-to-date IWTO Test Specification (IWTO-17)
"DETERMINATION OF THE PARAMETER OF WOOL FIBRE LENGTH
DISTRIBUTION WITH THE ALMETER APPARATUS".



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C. **Carry out:**

- 1) the check of the calibration of the ALMETER apparatus with the lozenge
 - **daily** (when in use) for the digital apparatuses (AL100 & AL101)
 - every two days of use for the analogic apparatuses;
- 2) a weekly check of the hygrometer by means of wet and dry bulb psychrometer or any other electronic equipment, provided it has itself been checked in relation to the reference standard;
- 3) to record continuously the temperature and the relative humidity of the room(s) in which the tests are carried out.

II. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Apart from the above mentioned criteria the Management Committee **urges** Member-Laboratories:

- 1) to investigate the time required for test samples to attain a stable regain when conditioning is carried out (from the dry side) on test samples using identical laboratory procedures to those which are used for normal routine testing of samples. (Depending upon these procedures and the air movement around test specimens, it can take from 4 hours to in excess of 24 hours to ensure that adequate conditioning has taken place);
- 2) to equip themselves with:
 - a diagram recorder
 - a current stabilizer to check and avoid deviations due to voltage

} if not already incorporated in the ALMETER apparatus
- 3) to keep records of the temperature and humidity;
- 4) to verify the conditions of the grip, especially the combs and the leather of the grip. It is important that the foot of the sample should be straight as much as possible.
- 5) to ensure that their principal Laboratory Technician/Manager is on the appropriate mailing list for receipt of any new and amended versions of IWTO-17;
- 6) to ensure that any such changes to IWTO-17 are implemented immediately, by clearly allocating the responsibility for full compliance and operator training to the Manager of their laboratory.