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Standard Practice for Sampling Wool for Moisture¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This practice covers the design of a sampling plan to be used to obtain samples for the determination of the moisture content of grease wool, scoured wool, carded wool, garnetted wool, wool top and intermediate products, and rovings.

1.2 Directions are given for the designation of sampling units, calculation of the number of sampling units required to achieve a preselected precision and confidence level or, alternatively, for calculating the confidence limits for the mean based on the variability of the sample tested.

NOTE 1—This practice for devising a sampling plan is intended for use in connection with Test Method D1576 or Test Method D2462. The sampling of raw wool for the determination of clean wool fiber present is covered in Practice D1060.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

D123 Terminology Relating to Textiles

D1060 Practice for Core Sampling of Raw Wool in Packages for Determination of Percentage of Clean Wool Fiber Present

D1576 Test Method for Moisture in Wool by Oven-Drying

D2462 Test Method for Moisture in Wool by Distillation With Toluene

E122 Practice for Calculating Sample Size to Estimate, With Specified Precision, the Average for a Characteristic of a Lot or Process

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of the ASTM Committee D13 on Textiles and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D13.13 on Wool and Felt.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

3.1.1 *laboratory sample, n*—a portion of material taken to represent the lot sample, or the original material, and used in the laboratory as a source of test specimens.

3.1.2 *lot, n—in acceptance sampling*, that part of a consignment or shipment consisting of material from one production lot.

3.1.3 *lot sample, n*—one or more shipping units taken at random to represent an acceptance sampling lot and used as a source of laboratory samples.

3.1.4 *sample, n—(1)* a portion of a lot of material which is taken for testing or record purposes.

(2) the group of specimens used, or observations made, which provide information that can be used for making statistical inferences about the population from which they were drawn.

3.1.5 *sampling unit, n—in wool*, a portion of material that is taken at one time from one physical location and that is combined with similar portions to make up the laboratory sample.

3.1.5.1 *Discussion*—A sampling unit may or may not have the same physical size as a specimen. Examples of sampling units include: (1) for bulk materials seen as scoured wool, a handful of wool conforming to a stated mass range, (2) for cored material, a minimum mass of material collected by one insertion of a coring tool, (3) for sliver, a stated length of material, and (4) a single package, such as a ball of top.

3.1.6 *specimen, n*—a specific portion of a material or a laboratory sample upon which a test is performed or which is selected for that purpose.

3.1.7 For definitions of moisture, moisture content, moisture regain, and other textile terms used in this practice, refer to Terminology D123.

4. Summary of Practice

4.1 Directions are given for subdividing a lot of material into potential sampling units and for providing each potential sampling unit with its own unique identification.

4.2 Directions are given for calculating the number of such sampling units required to give a preselected allowable variation at a stated probability level, or for calculating confidence limits for the sample mean obtained for a given size of sample.

4.3 Directions are given for deciding which particular sampling units should be chosen to constitute the required lot sample. These directions ensure that all potential sampling units have approximately the same chance of being selected for the lot sample.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This recommended practice furnishes directions for the sampling of wool of the various forms indicated in Section 1, in order that correct probability statements may be made about the relationship between the sample mean and the population mean. If these statements are to be correct, certain conditions, which are stated, must hold.

5.2 This recommended practice requires that a deliberate act of randomization be performed so that all potential sampling units have approximately the same chance of being taken and no sampling unit is deprived of its chance of being taken.

5.3 In any case where insufficient information about the variability of the sampling units within the lot is available, directions are given for calculating confidence limits for the sample mean so that a correct probability statement can still be made.

6. Preliminary Conditions

6.1 If it is desired to calculate a sample size to achieve a preselected precision at a preselected level of confidence, knowledge of the variation of the moisture content is necessary.

6.1.1 The test method to be used must be the same method that was used to derive any prior information with respect to the variability of the moisture content.

6.1.2 The sampling unit must be the fundamental unit in terms of which the variance is expressed. In other words, if the sampling unit is chosen to be a 25-g handful of bulk material or a 4-yd (3.65-m) length of sliver, then the variance used must be the number that expresses the variability of these units, and the number of sampling units which is calculated will be the number of such units required. The sampling unit is not necessarily the same thing as a specimen.

6.1.3 The lot designated for sampling must be statistically homogeneous. This is equivalent to saying that the lot shall not be composed of a mixture of two or more parts, the moisture content of which is distributed sufficiently differently that if the moisture content of the entire lot were measured, a plot of the moisture content versus the number of sampling units would show a curve having more than one peak. (See [Appendix X1](#).) If the test given in [Appendix X1](#) leads to the conclusion that the lot cannot be considered to be statistically homogeneous, then it should be subdivided into groups that are homogeneous. The pattern of runs found may indicate what the subgroups should be.

6.1.4 The magnitude of the variation of moisture content within the homogeneous lot must be known. The magnitude of the variation is usually expressed as the standard deviation, although the range may also be used.

6.2 If insufficient knowledge is available to ensure meeting the above conditions, a sample of convenient size may be selected and confidence limits calculated for the mean using

the information in the sample results. In this case, the only condition that applies is [6.1.3](#).

7. Procedure

7.1 Designate the form and size of the sampling unit, bearing in mind the conditions and precautions discussed in Sections 5 and 6. Whenever possible, make the size of the sampling unit and specimen the same.

7.1.1 The designation of the sampling unit depends on the form of the material and on the method to be used for making measurements on the sample. The material to be sampled may exist in one of three basic forms: bulk material such as scoured wool or picked blends of wools, packaged material such as baled wool, or material put up in the form of packages within packages such as balls of top within cases or bales. The method of measurement may require a specimen as large as a whole package of material, or as small as a few grams of material.

7.1.2 Where the material to be sampled exists in some bulk form, such as scoured wool, or a blend that has been picked and stored in a bin, the designation of a sampling unit will depend upon the mechanics of drawing the sample. If hand sampling is the method employed, the sampling unit will be a handful of a certain specified size. Whenever possible, the size of a sampling unit should be made to coincide with the size of the specimen required by the method of measurement because the random variations observed in the test results are then directly applicable to the sampling units.

7.1.3 When the material to be sampled exists in the form of packages such as baled wool or packages within packages, such as balls of wool top in cases or bales, the sampling unit can be either an entire package or some portion of a package, depending upon the size of the specimen required.

7.2 Identify each potential sampling unit in the lot by numbering, coding, using geometrical coordinates, or by any other systematic means. It is important that by some means or other, all potential sampling units must be furnished with their own unique identification so that none is deprived of its chance of being sampled.

7.2.1 In designing a sampling plan, it is necessary to devise a method for assigning to every potential sampling unit in the lot a unique identification. This is a relatively simple task in those instances where the sampling units are discrete packages, such as might be the case with balls of top if an entire ball is to be the sampling unit.

7.2.2 With material in bulk form or with packaged material in which the sampling unit is to be only a portion of the package, it is not as easy to identify uniquely each potential sampling unit, and some method of approximating the ideal situation must be devised. See, for example, the instructions given in Practice [D1060](#).

7.2.3 For materials in loose bulk form, considerable ingenuity and imagination may be required to effect a proper identification of the potential sampling units.

7.3 *Option 1*—This procedure is available for those instances where information is sufficient to enable the calculation of sample size required for a specified allowable variation and probability level.