
**Textiles — Cotton fibres —
Determination of micronaire value**

Textiles — Fibres de coton — Détermination de l'indice micronaire

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 38, *Textiles*, Subcommittee SC 23, *Fibres and yarns*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 2403:2014), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- an introduction clause has been added;
- a short description of the available apparatus, operation details and reference to calibration method in [5.2](#), Notes 1 and 2, respectively, has been added ;
- permission of the use of two different sample preparation methods have been added in [7.2](#);
- the specification of applied sample preparation method, the date of the test, any deviations from the procedure, and any unusual features observed have been added in the test report in [Clause 10](#);
- former Annexes B and C (operation of different instruments) have been removed;
- a new informative [Annex B](#) with precision data for micronaire measurements has been added;
- a new informative [Annex C](#) with precision data for comparison of the both test specimen preparation methods has been added;
- a bibliography has been added;
- grammar and linguistic consistency have been reviewed.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

The micronaire value, one of the most important cotton fibre quality parameters, is measured on a plug of cotton fibres, it hence represents an average value. Due to a simple test specimen preparation, a measurement is carried out in relatively short time and thereby leads to fast testing results.

Based on the air permeability of a compressed cotton fibre test specimen, early manual micronaire testers used a mechanical air-flow meter, where a float sensor indicates the amount of air flowing through the test specimen, and a mechanical manometer showing the air pressure difference across the test specimen. Modern micronaire testers generally use electronic sensors for both, the air flow and the pressure difference.

In any case, the dimensionless micronaire value is calculated from the air flow through the test specimen and the pressure difference along the test specimen. Micronaire values are within a scale of 2 and 8, where a value of 2 represents a low air permeability (high packing density of the test specimen, caused by very fine and/or immature fibres) and a value of 8 represents a high air permeability (low packing density of the test specimen, caused by very coarse and/or mature fibres).

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Textiles — Cotton fibres — Determination of micronaire value

1 Scope

This document specifies a method of determining the micronaire value of loose disorientated cotton fibres taken from bales, laps and slivers, or other sources of lint cotton.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 139, *Textiles — Standard atmospheres for conditioning and testing*

ISO 1130, *Textile fibres — Some methods of sampling for testing*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1

micronaire value

measure for the air permeability of a mass of cotton under specified conditions

Note 1 to entry: The micronaire scale is based on a range of cottons to which micronaire values have been assigned by international agreement.

Note 2 to entry: It is expressed in terms of an arbitrary scale, the so-called micronaire scale.

4 Principle

Air is passed through a test specimen consisting of a plug of fibres. The permeability is indicated on a scale for recording variations in either the rate of flow through, or the pressure difference across, the plug. The mass and volume of the test specimen are either a constant for a given type of instrument or varied appropriately in relation to each other. The scale indicating variations in permeability can be calibrated in arbitrary units of micronaire value or marked in the appropriate absolute units of rate of flow or of pressure difference and a table or graph provided for conversion of the observed readings into micronaire values.

5 Apparatus and materials

5.1 Balance, of sufficient capacity to weigh the test specimen required for the airflow instrument used, with an accuracy of $\pm 0,2$ %.

5.2 Airflow instrument, whose principal parts are as follows.

5.2.1 Compression cylinder with perforated ends of such dimensions that with the prescribed mass of test specimen each cubic centimetre shall contain between 0,16 g and 0,30 g of cotton when compressed.

5.2.2 Means for measuring the air permeability of the test specimen, comprising, for example:

- a) a suitable **air pump**;
- b) one or more **valves** or other means for controlling the flow of air through, or the pressure difference across, the test specimen in the compression cylinder;
- c) a **manometer** for measuring the required air pressure difference across the test specimen and a flowmeter for indicating the rate of airflow through it.

NOTE 1 There are several models of airflow instruments, which vary only in details of construction and operation. Any details of the operation are described in the manufacturer's instructions included with the instrument.

NOTE 2 For information on the method of calibration of airflow instruments, see [Annex A](#).

5.3 International calibration cotton standards (see [A.1](#)).

6 Conditioning

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6.1 Condition samples in the standard atmosphere for 4 h in moving air (or alternatively for 12 h in still air) or for a shorter time if the change in mass in a 2 h period does not exceed 0,25 % before weighing and testing the test specimen. Preconditioning is not required.

6.2 Weigh and test the test specimen in the standard atmosphere for conditioning in accordance with ISO 139.

7 Preparation of test specimen

7.1 Take test specimens in accordance with the instructions given in ISO 1130, or test specimens and samples can be drawn in other ways with prior agreement between the parties concerned.

7.2 Two methods of test specimen preparation are permitted:

- a) Method "A": Take the test specimen directly from the sample without removing any foreign bodies;
- b) Method "B": Remove from the test specimen foreign bodies such as seed, sand, pieces of stalk, and other impurities.

Use a test specimen of the size prescribed for the instrument being used. Instruments may have a compression cylinder of fixed volume or adjustably varied volume. Weigh the test specimen to within $\pm 0,2$ % of the test specimen size appropriate for the instrument.

See [Annex C](#) for additional information and a comparison of both test specimen preparation methods.

8 Procedure

8.1 Before each series of measurements, make the necessary preliminary adjustments appropriate to the instrument in use. From time to time, test a minimum of two check test specimens from preferably each of three, but at least of two calibration cottons covering the range of micronaire values of samples

to be tested to determine whether or not the instrument is correctly adjusted and is giving results on the correct level (for more information, see [Annex A](#)).

8.1.1 Consider the performance of any instrument to be within the requirements of this document if the average results for each such calibration cotton do not differ from its corresponding established values by more than $\pm 0,10$ micronaire scale unit.

8.1.2 Re-test, by the above procedure, cottons giving differences greater than $\pm 0,10$ micronaire scale unit between the average of the two tests and the established value. Accept the results if the difference between the two new micronaire values for such a cotton does not exceed $\pm 0,10$ micronaire scale unit. If the difference continues to be greater than $\pm 0,10$ micronaire scale unit, either re-adjust the instrument and repeat the above check procedure or apply, on the basis of the established differences referred to above, an appropriate correction or adjustment to test values for subsequent samples submitted for testing.

8.2 Pack the test specimen evenly into the compression cylinder, a small portion at a time, fluffing the fibres with the fingers in order to break up any lumps and taking care that all the fibres are inserted in the cylinder. Put the compression plunger in position and lock it.

8.3 Cause the air to flow through the test specimen at the appropriate constant flow (or pressure) and note the reading on the pressure difference (or airflow) scale of the instrument to an accuracy of about ± 1 %.

8.4 If a second measurement is required for the same test specimen, remove the cotton from the instrument, taking care not to lose fibre, and repeat the procedure given in [8.2](#) and [8.3](#).

8.5 Test the number of test specimens per sample.

[Annex B](#) provides additional information and precision data.

9 Calculation and expression of results

9.1 For instruments in which the scale is graduated in micronaire values, average the readings for the test specimens tested from a sample. If necessary, apply any correction based on [8.1.2](#) and report the average to the nearest 0,1 micronaire value.

9.2 For instruments in which the scale is graduated in units other than micronaire values, convert the direct readings to micronaire values from a previously established conversion curve or statistical relation. Additional information is given in [Annex A](#). Calculate the average of the converted values as described in [9.1](#).

10 Test report

The test report shall include the following information:

- a) a reference to this document, i.e. ISO 2403:2021;
- b) the material source (lint cotton, picker lap, processing waste) and, if possible, type and/or botanical species (*desi*, Upland, *G. barbadense*);
- c) method of test specimen preparation (Method "A" or Method "B");
- d) the number of test specimens tested, the number of readings per test specimen, the number of samples used, and the scheme for drawing them;
- e) the average values calculated, as specified in [Clause 9](#);

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- f) the type, make, and model of instrument used;
- g) the date of the test;
- h) any deviations from the procedure;
- i) any unusual features observed.

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