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SLC Members

(SLSC Letter No. 32)

Dear *Members,*

CORESTA Collaborative: Air-Flow: Annex C of ISO/DIS 3308

Since discussing this topic at the 12th Meeting of SLC (20th November '90), I have been in communication with Ted Wilkes regarding the Air-Flow data from the CORESTA collaborative; see copy of the data attached.

As you will see, the data are very diverse in the amount of detail given. Very few data-sets afford a complete break-down of the variance components and the results for several laboratories are downright implausible. In view of this, my revised opinion (i.e. changed since considering just the ITL data) is that it is not possible to draw detailed and meaningful conclusions at the present time.

Unfortunately, this poses a problem in completing Annex C of ISO/DIS 3308 which should, ideally, give definitive details on a procedure for setting Air-Flow, including tolerances on the standard (target) value. Bearing in mind the urgency of the situation, therefore, I propose the following approach which would not only leave the 'door open' for a more definitive wording after further work has been completed but also not impose prohibitive testing constraints in the intervening time.

1. State that standard Air-Flow shall be 200 mm/sec. for each smoking machine.
2. Specify, also in a normative way, the position(s) of measurement - e.g. for 8 & 20 channel linear that Air-Flow probe should be set at the butt mark plus 40 mm along axis of the cigarette position - and the type(s) of anemometer to be used.
3. Regarding a procedure for setting, checking and adjusting Air-Flow, give guidelines which will attain only an advisory status. Based on the CORESTA data attached, for which individual run means are given (albeit, not necessarily based on the same number of ports or replicates per port), this could take the form of 'a laboratory should aim to ensure that the Air-Flow average for a run is within 200 \pm 30 mm/sec. (ideally) and within 200 \pm 50 mm/sec. (always)'.

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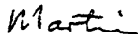
NB By observation of the more plausible results - those for laboratories 2, 3, 7, 20, 21, 22 and 23 - 96% of the run means fall within 200 ± 30 and all fall within 200 ± 50 .

4. Include a footnote to the effect that further work is being done by CORESTA to provide more definitive and user-friendly guidelines for setting Air-Flow.

In view of the urgency on this - ideally, Peter Adams needs to have Annex C of ISO/DIS 3308 completed for discussion at the CORESTA meeting in Madrid (17th December '90) - would you please FAX/telephone me by the 7th December at the latest to say whether or not you are in favour of the above approach.

Sorry about the rush!

Yours sincerely,



M. W. Whittaker

ENCS.

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