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Innovation does not exist without quality

The CEPI Comparative Testing Service

For pulp, paper, board and
related materials

Do you need to ensure that your procedures and equipment for testing pulp, paper, board and related materials give you correct and reliable results?

Do you need to demonstrate this to your Quality Management System auditors or accreditation body?

Then you need the CEPI Comparative Testing Service (CTS)

- Fully independent proficiency testing service
- Established for 40 years - unrivalled expertise
- Available through 10 laboratories across Europe
- The only paper CTS to provide reference values with statistical limits for samples
- Used by approximately 400 clients across Europe
- Clients include pulp and paper producers, customers and suppliers to the paper industry
- Supported by consultancy services for calibration and training for equipment operation

WELCOME TO THE CEPI COMPARATIVE TESTING SERVICE

Benefit from over 40 years' experience

The Comparative Testing Service of the Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI-CTS) is a proficiency testing and reference materials dissemination scheme for the paper industry which has run continuously since 1976.

As set out in the CEPI-CTS statutes, the service provides:

- ❶ individual paper testing laboratories in Europe with a means of checking the overall performance of their testing procedures, including the calibration of the equipment
- ❷ a system that can be used as a complement to traceable calibration when a laboratory applies for certification or accreditation
- ❸ a system that can be used for evaluation of test methods

The CEPI-CTS involves a programme of more than 100 different tests, each available at two to four different levels. The service is used by almost 400 paper testing laboratories across Europe. It is one of the many activities supported by the Brussels-based CEPI organisation and it is run by a Working Group whose members are nominated by the National Paper Associations and who are mostly research institutes. The Working Group is supervised by CEPI.

Check and evaluate your testing procedures and equipment

Tailored to your needs

The comparative testing programme covers most mechanical, structural, chemical, printability and optical properties of paper and related materials. From a list of over 100 properties you can select those relevant to you within the measuring range you normally use.

Immediate results

As a subscriber to the CEPI-CTS, twice a year you will receive paper samples with reference values and corresponding warning and action limits. Based on your own testing of these samples, you can immediately conclude whether or not your testing procedures (including equipment and testing personnel) produce correct and reliable results. If required, consultancy services for calibration or training for the operation of the equipment can be obtained through the distributing laboratory in your country.

Easily demonstrate the accuracy of your testing

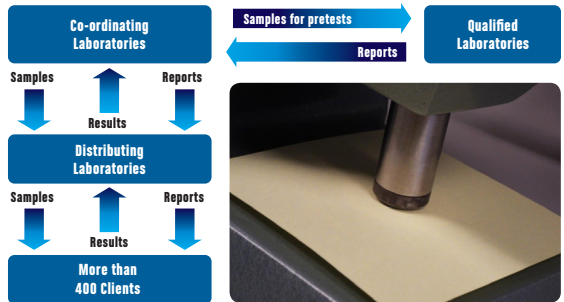
The final report from the Co-ordinating Laboratory shows you how your results compare to the general distribution of European testing results. You can use the results to demonstrate to your accreditation or certification body for your Quality Management System that your testing procedures provide acceptable results.



STEP-BY-STEP: How the CTS works from sample preparation to final report

The CTS is available in Europe but also worldwide through national organisations called Distributing Laboratories. Sample preparation, statistical evaluation of data and report making is performed by Co-ordinating Laboratories. Reference values are calculated from a preliminary round-robin test performed by a group of Qualified Laboratories.

The procedure is repeated twice a year, and the tests cover most mechanical, structural, chemical, printability and optical properties of paper and related materials.



1. Sample material is prepared and distributed

Co-ordinating Laboratories prepare sample material and distribute it to the Qualified Laboratories for the preliminary round-robin test: the so-called 'pre-test'. The Qualified Laboratories perform tests strictly according to international standards and agreed procedures.

2. Reference values are set with warning and action limits for each material and property concerned

Based on their results, the Co-ordinating Laboratories calculate the reference values for each sample material, with warning and action limits: the CEPI values.

3. Sample material and reference values are sent to clients

The Co-ordinating Laboratories send sample material with corresponding CEPI values to the national Distributing Laboratories which distribute samples and their CEPI values to the clients.

4. Clients' results are compiled into a final report showing the distribution of European test results

The Distributing Laboratories collect the client results and send them back to the responsible Co-ordinating Laboratory for further processing and reporting

5. Final report distributed to all clients

You receive a final report from your Distributing Laboratory showing how your results compare to the general distribution of European testing results. The entire activity is an independent, non-profit but economically self-sufficient undertaking, the costs of which are covered by the clients.

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE

If you are interested in more information about CEPI-CTS or would like to subscribe, please contact the Chairman or one of the Distributing Laboratories. They will be glad to supply you with all the information you need.

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