

SGS Wool Testing Services

Info-bulletin

OFDA, Airflow & Laserscan - preliminary data - NZ 2002/03 season

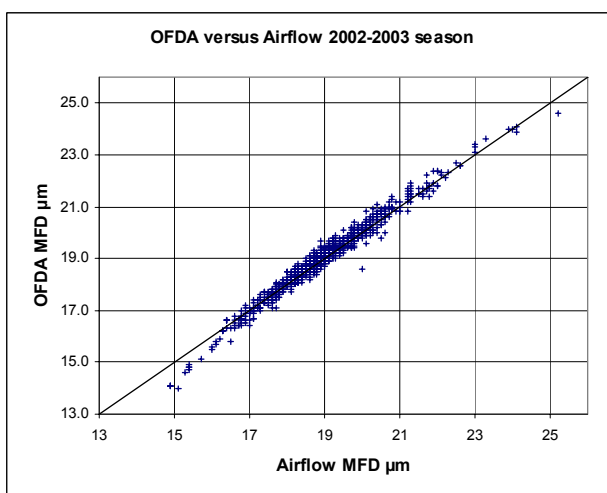
Introduction

Info-bulletins 3.5 and 3.6 gave data on comparisons between the three diameter-measuring instruments used by SGS Wool Testing Services on New Zealand merino wools for the 2000/01 and 2001/02 seasons respectively. These two sets of data showed a slight shift in the average relationships between the two seasons as a result of the change in Laserscan calibration.

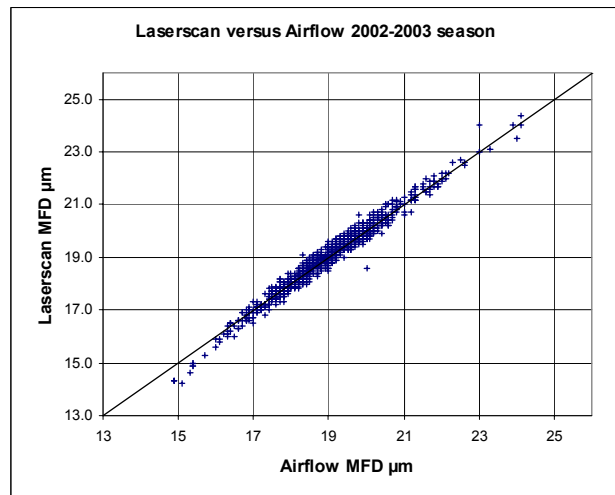
This bulletin addresses questions that have been asked concerning the relationships for the 2002/03 season. The data available to mid-September only represents a small proportion of the total likely to be tested in this season. However, since just over 1000 comparisons were already available, it was considered that this dataset is adequate to confirm whether the relationships appear stable.

Results

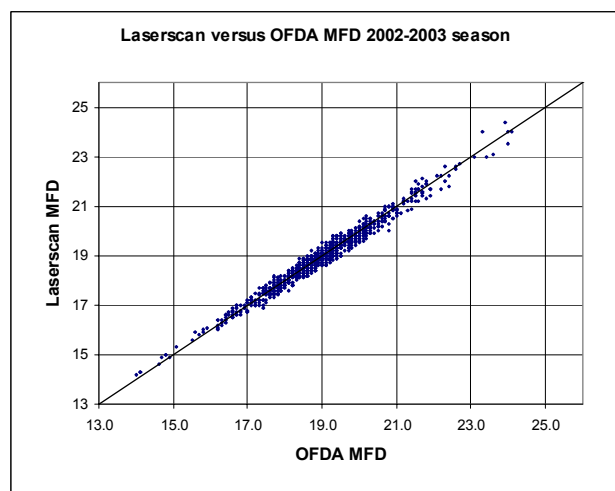
In these plots, the diagonal represents a 1:1 relationship. To date the OFDA and Laserscan continue to give good agreement on average for the majority of the merino range, and, as seen previously, become progressively finer than airflow below approximately 17 μm . Over the total number of comparisons shown here, the average difference between OFDA and Airflow is 0.06 (sd 0.24) μm .



Similarly to the previous season, the Laserscan was on average 0.05 (sd 0.23) μm coarser than the airflow.



The agreement between OFDA and Laserscan was also, on average, excellent, with the OFDA being marginally finer than the Laserscan at the ultrafine end. The average difference on this data set is 0.02 (sd 0.22) μm .



Agreement on coefficient of variation of diameter and comfort factor was also excellent, with the average differences being 0.4 (sd 0.8) % and 0.4 (sd 0.4) % respectively.

Conclusion

Over the first months of the 2002/03 season, the relationship between OFDA, Laserscan and Airflow remained stable compared with the 2001/02 season, with all three instruments giving very good agreement on average for the majority of the merino wools tested in this period.