

## **Routine Analytical Chemistry Sub-Group**

# Technical Report on 2007 Joint Experiment to Update Repeatability and Reproducibility Statistics for:

- CORESTA Recommended Method 60, Determination of 1,2-Propylene Glycol and Glycerol in Tobacco Products by Gas Chromatography
- CORESTA Recommended Method 61, Determination of 1,2-Propylene Glycol and Glycerol in Tobacco Products by High Performance Liquid Chromatography

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#### 1. BACKGROUND

The CORESTA Recommended Methods (CRMs) for the determination of 1,2-propylene glycol (PG) and glycerol (GLY) in tobacco and tobacco products were published in February 2005. These resulted from a series of joint experiments which were carried out between 1993 and 1999 to evaluate sample preparation, extraction and analysis parameters when analysing PG and GLY in tobacco.

During 2007, the CORESTA Scientific Commission requested the Routine Analytical Chemistry (RAC) Sub Group carry out a collaborative study to investigate whether the repeatability (r) & reproducibility (R) values quoted in the methods were still relevant or could be improved.

The CRMs in question are listed below:

#### CRM 60

Determination of 1,2-Propylene Glycol and Glycerol in Tobacco Products by Gas Chromatography

#### **CRM 61**

Determination of 1,2-Propylene Glycol and Glycerol in Tobacco Products by High Performance Liquid Chromatography

The r and R statistics published in CRMs 60 and 61 were relatively large. Sample non-homogeneity was suspected to be a key contributor to the observed methods' variability. R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company (RJRT) volunteered to prepare a series of appropriate test samples and carry out an initial sample assessment. Data were presented at the April 2007 meeting of the RAC Sub Group as shown below in Tables 1 and 2, and displayed graphically in Figures 1 and 2.

Table 1: Loose Cut Tobacco Analysis for % 1,2-Propylene Glycol

Sample ID	Α	В	С	D
Point 1	0.43	1.21	2.03	3.30
Point 2	0.42	1.23	2.07	3.26
Point 3	0.41	1.21	2.05	3.33
Average	0.42	1.22	2.05	3.33
Std.Dev.	0.010	0.012	0.020	0.035

Table 2: Loose Cut Tobacco Analysis for % Glycerol

Sample ID	Α	В	С	D
Point 1	3.33	2.14	1.29	0.56
Point 2	3.36	2.23	1.39	0.54
Point 3	3.33	2.15	1.34	0.54
Average	3.34	2.17	1.34	0.55
Std.Dev.	0.017	0.049	0.050	0.012

Figure 1: Loose Cut Tobacco Analysis for % 1,2-Propylene Glycol

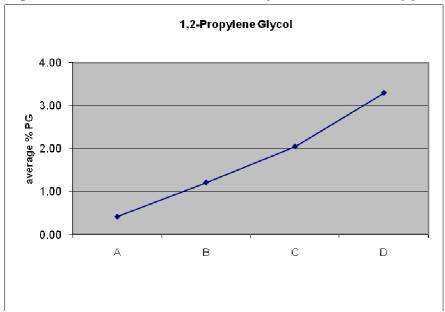
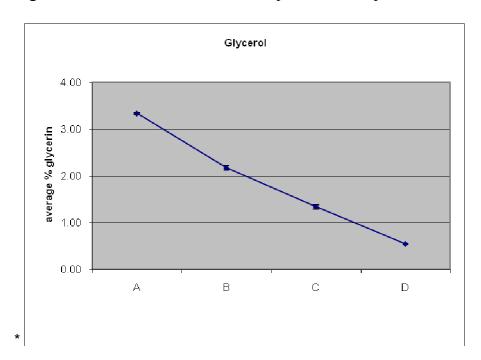


Figure 2: Loose Cut Tobacco Analysis for % Glycerol



The RAC agreed that the samples covered an appropriate range and therefore were acceptable for the study.

#### 2. SUMMARY

Eight tobacco samples were despatched to 19 laboratories. These samples consisted of four pouches of loose cut tobacco and four pouches of finely ground (ground to pass through a 1mm sieve) and homogenized tobacco from the same population as the loose cut tobacco samples.

The list of participating laboratories is in APPENDIX A.

The protocol was also sent to the participating laboratories, a copy of which is in APPENDIX B.

Duplicate preparations of each sample pouch were made with two injections per sample preparation, consistent with the original studies. Results were reported on an 'as received' basis.

All results were received within the deadline.

Analysis of the data showed that the larger r and R values found in the previous study were due to the lack of sample homogeneity. Therefore, for the purpose of this study every effort was made to prepare the samples for humectants analysis as homogeneously as possible.

Another outcome of this study was to update CRM 60 and 61 to include the r and R statistics found in this piece of work. The following table compares the values from both studies.

Table 3: CORESTA Collaborative Study of 1,2-Propylene Glycol and Glycerol Measurements – Comparison of Previous and Current Study Performance Measures

		% Propylene Glycol in Cut Loose Tobacco - GC Method									
	Previous Study					2007	Study				
	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4			
Mean	0.597	1.567	2.873	4.693	0.416	1.227	2.049	3.362			
r	0.046	0.079	0.120	0.244	0.016	0.057	0.067	0.135			
R	0.146	0.434	0.360	0.544	0.089	0.227	0.248	0.429			

		% Propylene Glycol in Cut Loose Tobacco - HPLC Method								
	Previous Study					2007	Study			
	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample		
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4		
Mean	0.585	1.568	2.724	4.723	0.439	1.251	2.103	3.573		
r	0.120	0.062	0.208	0.153	0.077	0.071	0.090	0.174		
R	0.530	0.315	0.825	0.48	0.358	0.408	0.503	0.307		

		% Glycerol in Cut Loose Tobacco - GC Method								
	Previous Study					2007	Study			
	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample		
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4		
Mean	0.260	1.291	2.444	4.462	0.585	1.387	2.202	3.386		
r	0.117	0.173	0.156	0.698	0.059	0.060	0.132	0.184		
R	0.325	0.401	0.522	2.668	0.163	0.236	0.313	0.418		

		% Glycerol in Cut Loose Tobacco - HPLC Method									
	Previous Study				2007 Study						
	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4			
Mean	0.223	1.244	2.442	4.396	0.560	1.413	2.324	3.707			
r	0.048	0.053	0.106	0.181	0.035	0.051	0.064	0.208			
R	0.448	0.311	0.862	1.369	0.129	0.196	0.217	0.450			

		% Propylene Glycol in Ground Tobacco - GC Method									
	Previous Study					2007	Study				
	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4			
Mean	0.591	1.549	2.803	4.580	0.404	1.181	2.011	3.303			
r	0.033	0.056	0.110	0.179	0.019	0.029	0.028	0.073			
R	0.090	0.170	0.334	0.514	0.058	0.204	0.210	0.360			

	% Propylene Glycol in Ground Tobacco - HPLC Method										
	Previous Study					2007	Study				
	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4			
Mean	0.574	1.596	2.669	4.554	0.424	1.236	2.072	3.435			
r	0.054	0.067	0.102	0.096	0.050	0.054	0.093	0.075			
R	0.555	0.276	0.666	0.450	0.230	0.390	0.469	0.204			

	% Glycerol in GroundTobacco - GC Method									
	Previous Study					2007	Study			
	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample		
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4		
Mean	0.259	1.311	2.439	4.389	0.584	1.365	2.159	3.361		
r	0.056	0.100	0.143	0.173	0.032	0.048	0.094	0.145		
R	0.289	0.286	0.620	0.910	0.178	0.183	0.276	0.444		

		% Glycerol in Ground Tobacco - HPLC Method									
	Pi	revious Stu	dy			2007	Study				
	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4			
Mean	0.167	1.211	2.367	4.281	0.558	1.425	2.307	3.555			
r	0.039	0.090	0.095	0.108	0.037	0.059	0.023	0.070			
R	0.328	0.214	0.810	0.572	0.131	0.155	0.245	0.369			

#### 3. INTRODUCTION

In spring 2007, eight samples of tobacco were despatched by RJRT to 19 laboratories (APPENDIX A). These samples consisted of four pouches of loose cut tobacco that had been carefully processed in a V Blender\* to improve homogeneity and four pouches of finely ground (ground to pass through a 1mm sieve) and homogenized tobacco. The protocol, designed by RJRT, was also sent to the participating laboratories (APPENDIX B).

\*Note: V-Blenders are often used for the intimate dry blending of free flowing solids. Materials being blended are constantly being split and intermixed as the shell rotates.

Duplicate preparations of each sample pouch were requested with two injections per sample preparation - consistent with the original studies. Results to be reported on an 'as received' basis with a deadline set as September 4, 2007.

19 sets of results were received by the coordinating company (RJRT) within the deadline. A preview of the study data was presented at the April 2008 meeting of the CORESTA RAC Sub Group.

#### 4. DATA TREATMENT

#### 4.1. RAW DATA

Graphical representations of the data are shown in Figures 3 - 14. These depict the individuals, mean and SDs from each lab plotted for each sample.

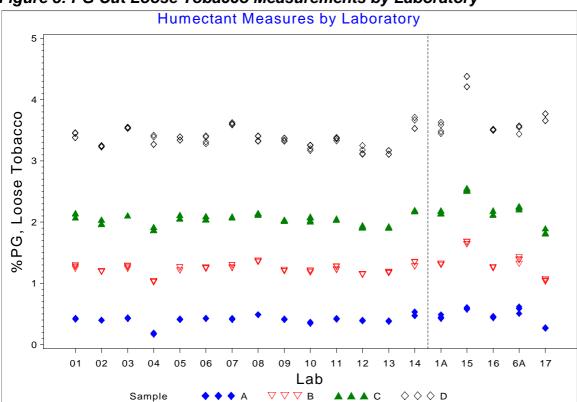


Figure 3: PG Cut Loose Tobacco Measurements by Laboratory

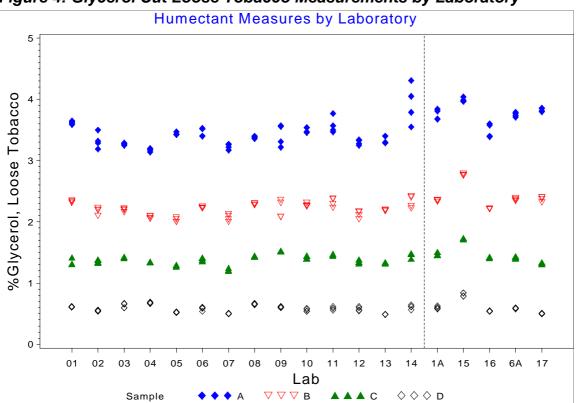


Figure 4: Glycerol Cut Loose Tobacco Measurements by Laboratory

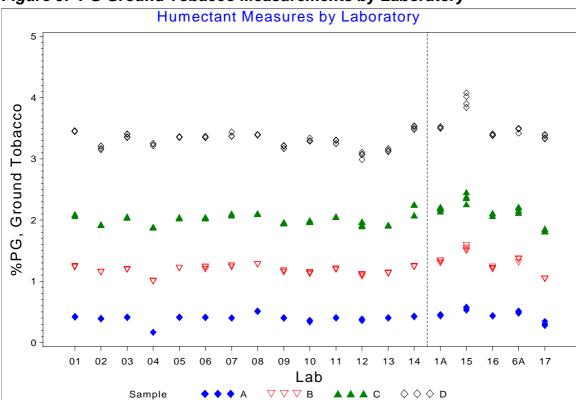


Figure 5: PG Ground Tobacco Measurements by Laboratory

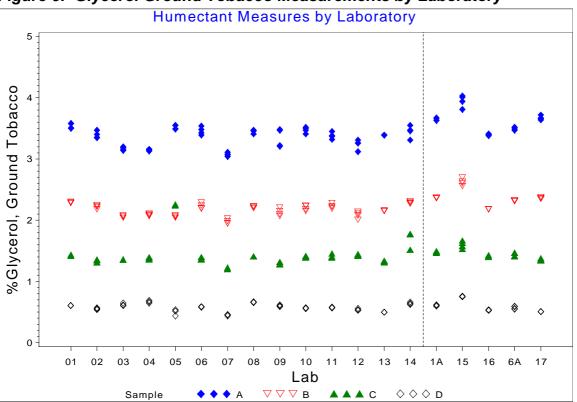


Figure 6: Glycerol Ground Tobacco Measurements by Laboratory

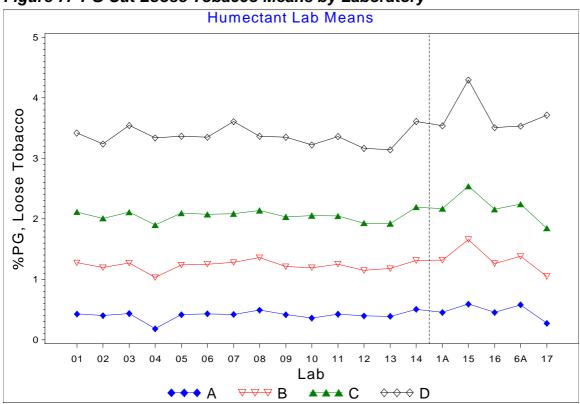


Figure 7: PG Cut Loose Tobacco Means by Laboratory

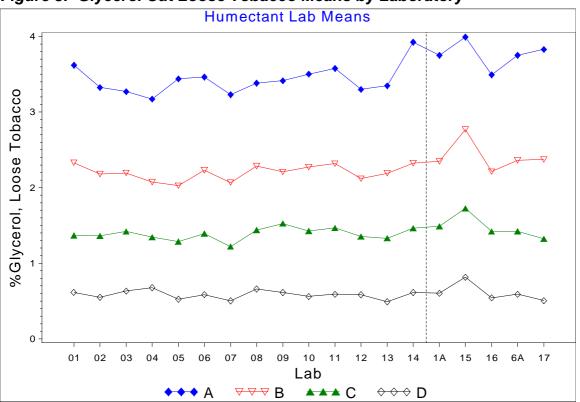


Figure 8: Glycerol Cut Loose Tobacco Means by Laboratory

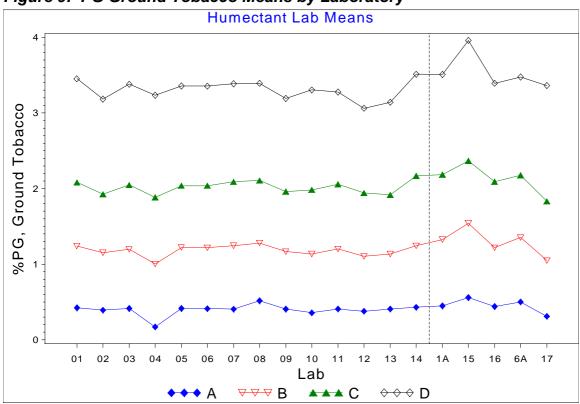


Figure 9: PG Ground Tobacco Means by Laboratory

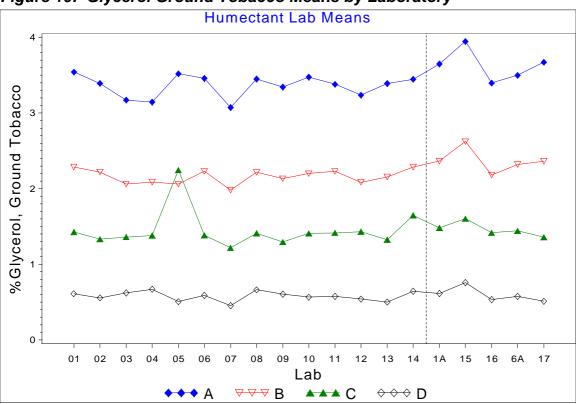


Figure 10: Glycerol Ground Tobacco Means by Laboratory

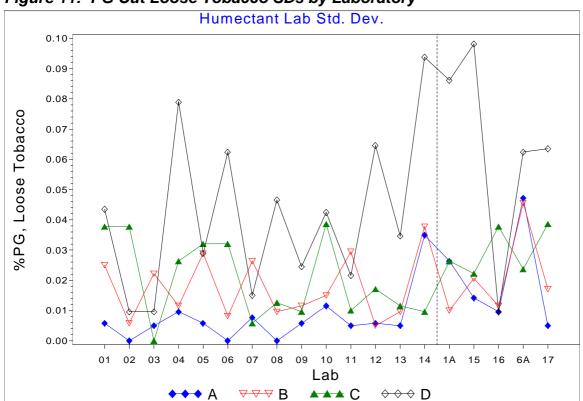


Figure 11: PG Cut Loose Tobacco SDs by Laboratory

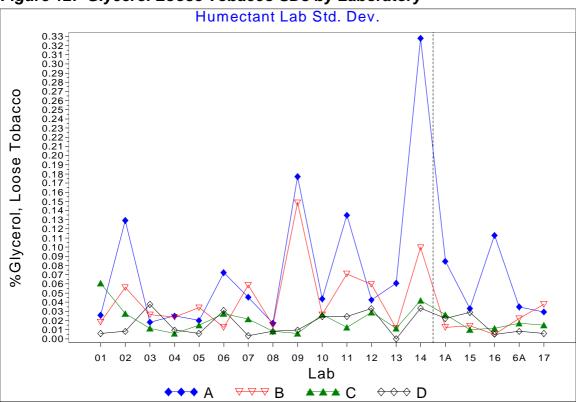


Figure 12: Glycerol Loose Tobacco SDs by Laboratory

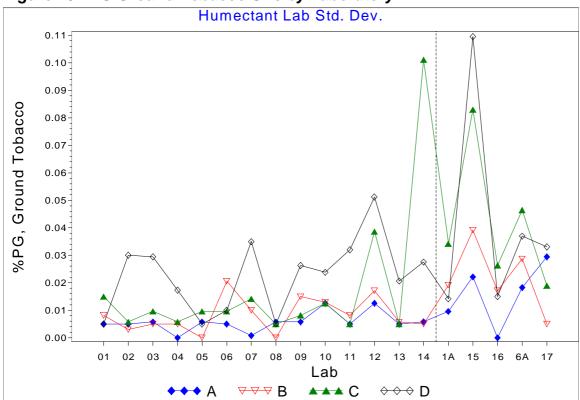


Figure 13: PG Ground Tobacco SDs by Laboratory

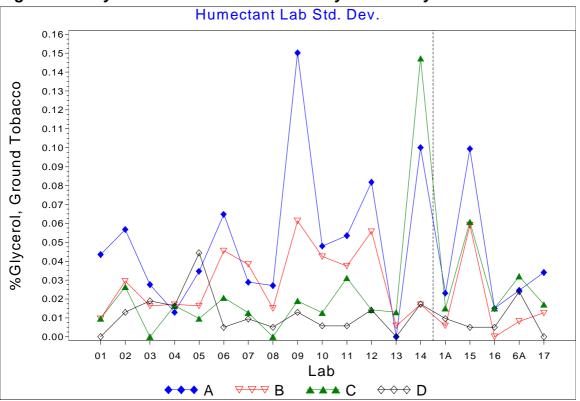


Figure 14: Glycerol Ground Tobacco SDs by Laboratory

#### 4.2. MANDEL's h and k

The data were then checked for the presence of outliers using MANDEL's h and k graphical consistency techniques. The results from this are shown in Figures 15 – 22a. Laboratory 15 was identified as an outlier in the statistical analysis and therefore excluded from the subsequent r and R calculations.

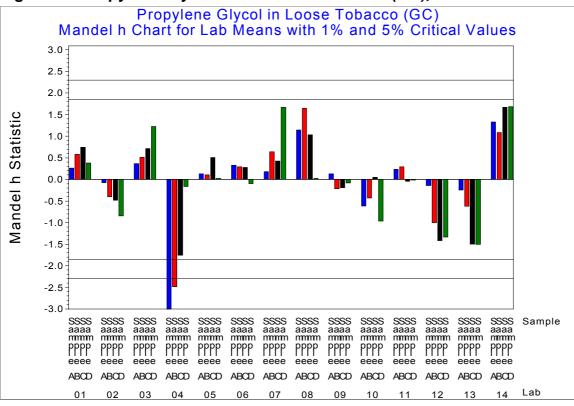


Figure 15: Propylene Glycol in Cut Loose Tobacco (GC), Mandel h Chart for Lab Means

Figure 15a: Propylene Glycol in Cut Loose Tobacco (GC), Mandel k Chart for Lab SDs

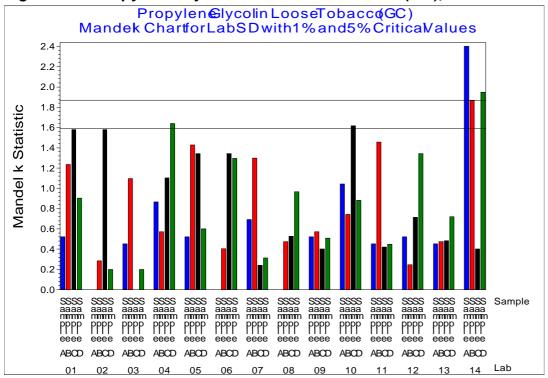


Figure 16: Glycerol in Cut Loose Tobacco (GC), Mandel h Chart for Lab Means

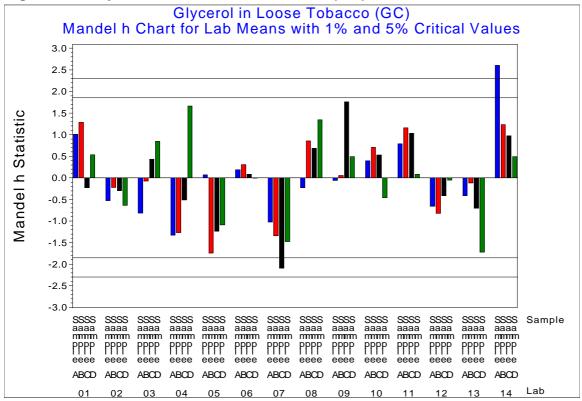


Figure 16a: Glycerol in Cut Loose Tobacco (GC), Mandel k Chart for Lab SDs

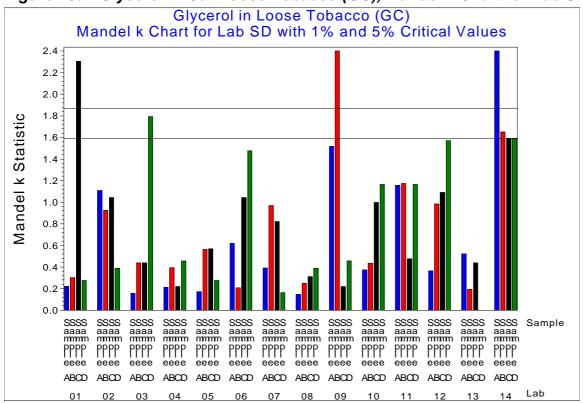


Figure 17: Propylene Glycol in Ground Tobacco (GC), Mandel h Chart for Lab Means

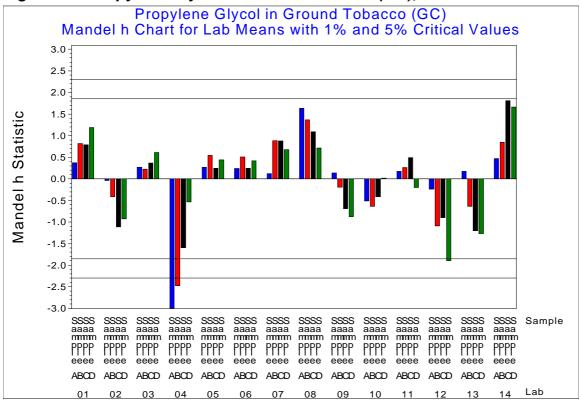


Figure 17a: Propylene Glycol in Ground Tobacco (GC), Mandel k Chart for Lab SDs

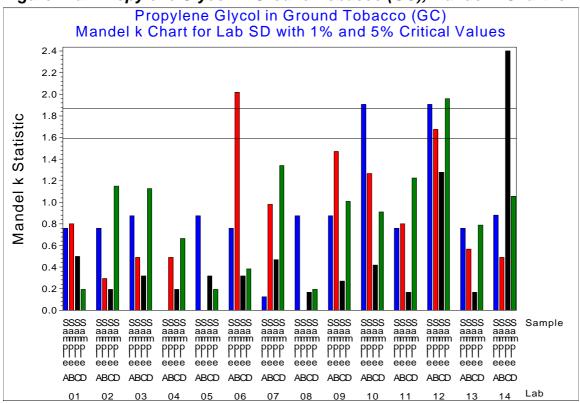


Figure 18: Glycerol in Ground Tobacco (GC), Mandel h Chart for Lab Means

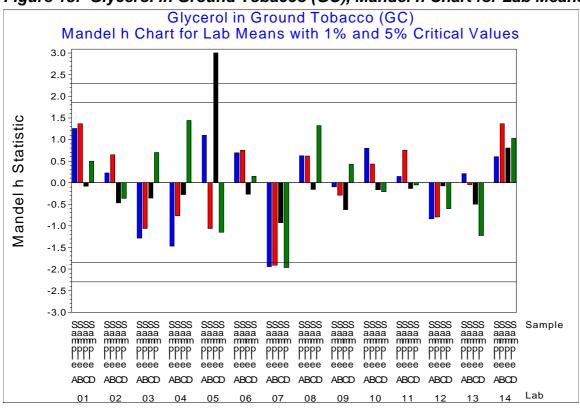


Figure 18a: Glycerol in Ground Tobacco (GC), Mandel k Chart for Lab SDs

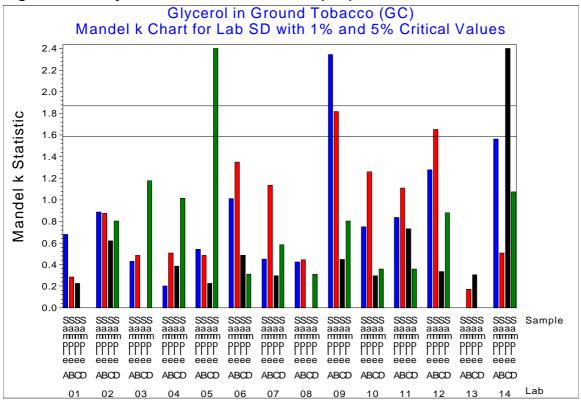


Figure 19: Propylene Glycol in Cut Loose Tobacco (HPLC), Mandel h Chart for Lab Means

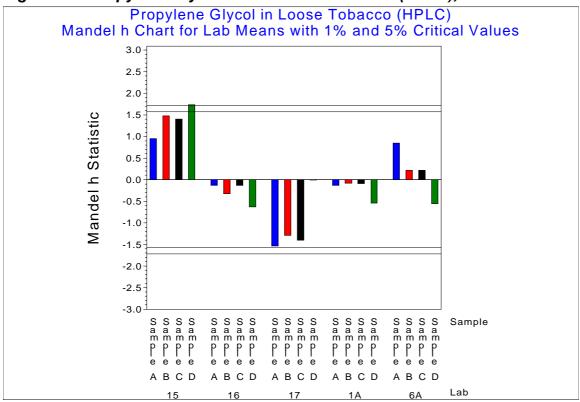


Figure 19: Propylene Glycol in Cut Loose Tobacco (HPLC), Mandel k Chart for Lab SDs

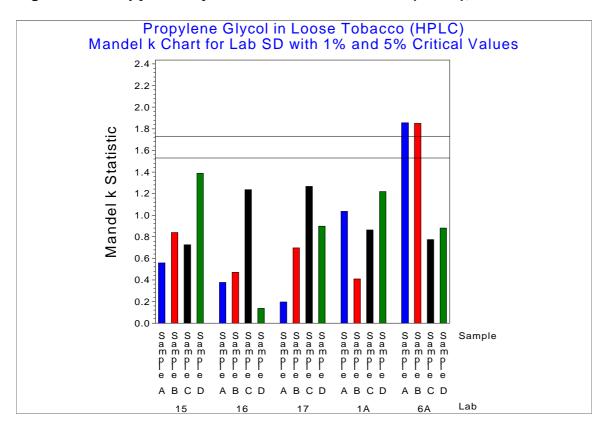


Figure 20: Glycerol in Cut Loose Tobacco (HPLC), Mandel h Chart for Lab Means

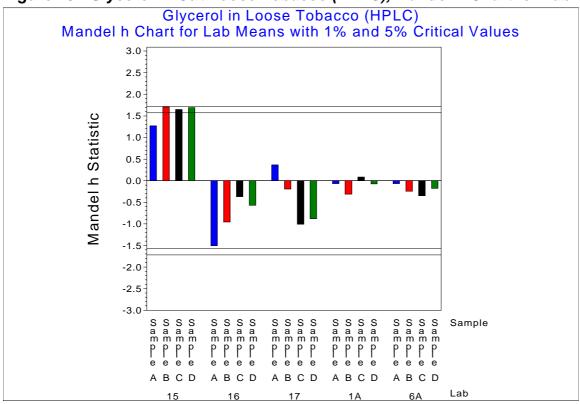


Figure 20a: Glycerol in Cut Loose Tobacco (HPLC), Mandel k Chart for Lab SDs

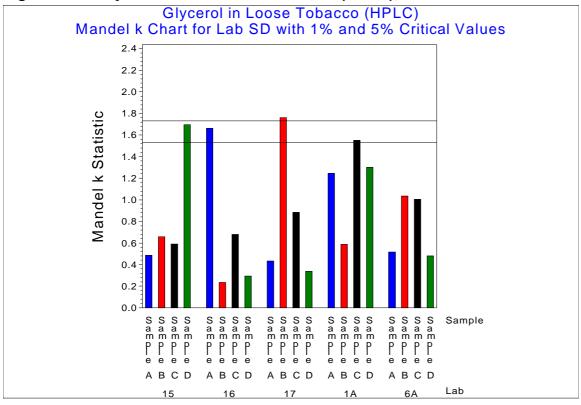


Figure 21: Propylene Glycol in Ground Tobacco (HPLC), Mandel h Chart for Lab Means

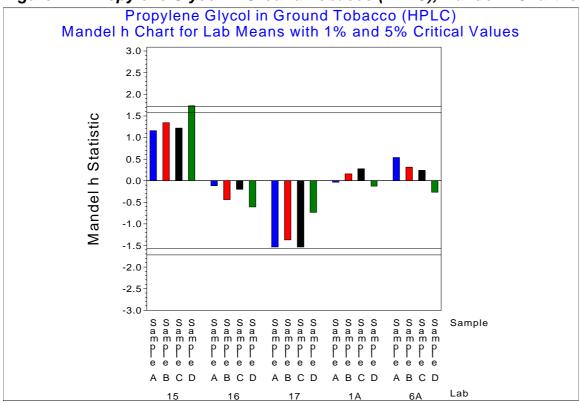


Figure 21a: Propylene Glycol in Ground Tobacco (HPLC), Mandel k Chart for Lab SDs

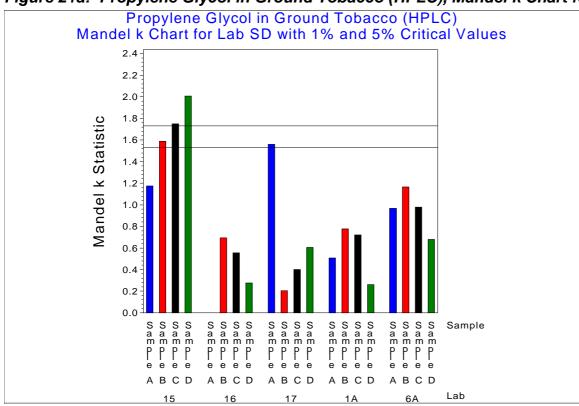


Figure 22: Glycerol in Ground Tobacco (HPLC), Mandel h Chart for Lab Means

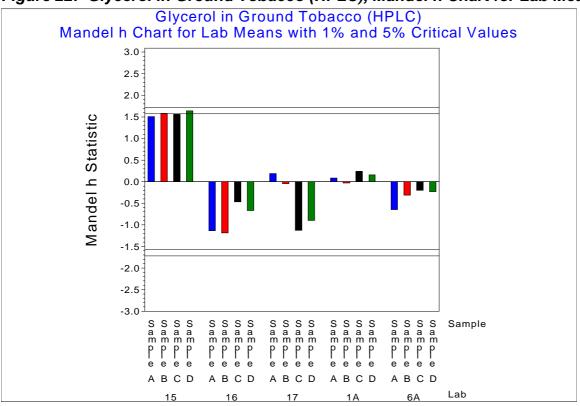
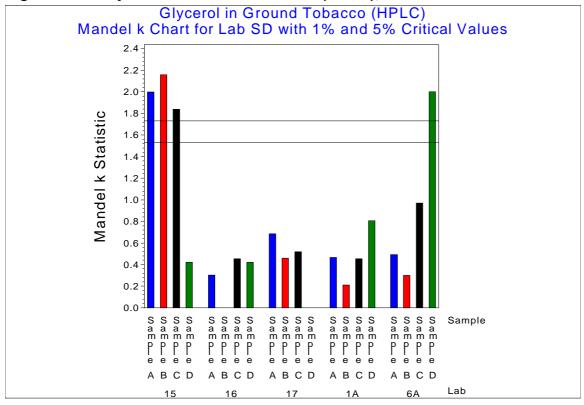


Figure 22a: Glycerol in Ground Tobacco (HPLC), Mandel k Chart for Lab SDs



#### 5. CONCLUSION

The following figures 23 – 26 and Table 4 compare the current mean, r and R results to those results published in the 2005 CRMs. Lab 15 data is excluded from these graphs as it was an outlier.

As can be seen, the care taken during sample preparation of the test portions to ensure homogeneity significantly improved method precision.

APPENDIX C contains a summary table of deviations from the CRMs, as all laboratories were not able to strictly follow the protocol.

Figure 23: Propylene Glycol in Cut Loose Tobacco Method Precision – Exclude HPLC Lab 15

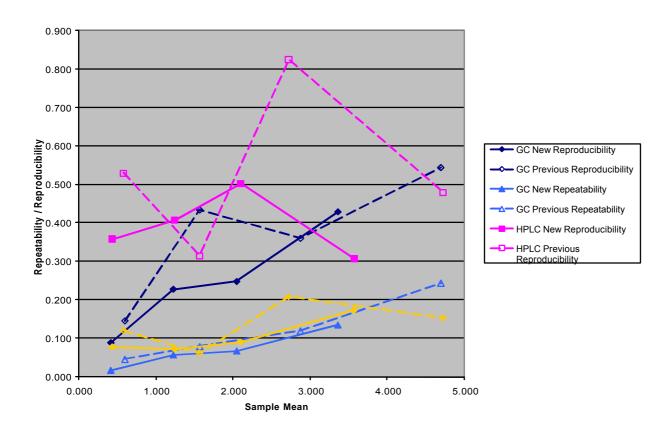


Figure 24: Glycerol in Cut Loose Tobacco Method Precision – Exclude HPLC Lab 15

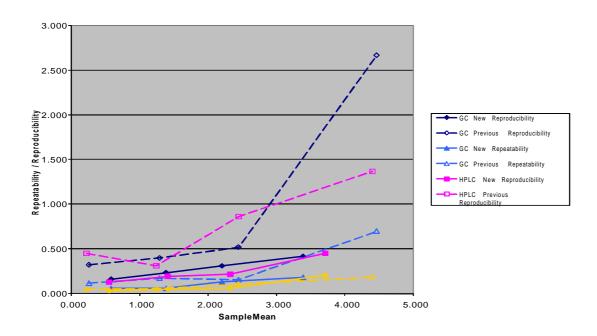


Figure 25: Propylene Glycol in Ground Tobacco Method Precision – Exclude HPLC Lab 15

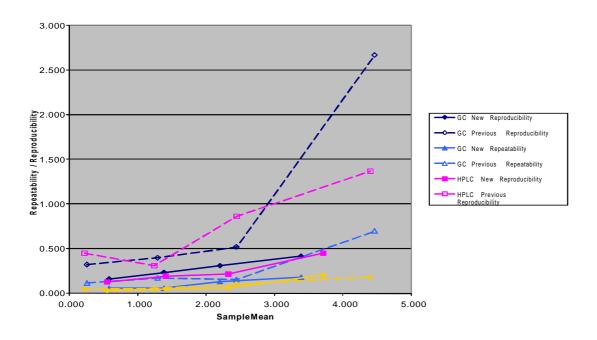


Figure 26: Glycerol in Ground Tobacco Method Precision – Exclude HPLC Lab 15

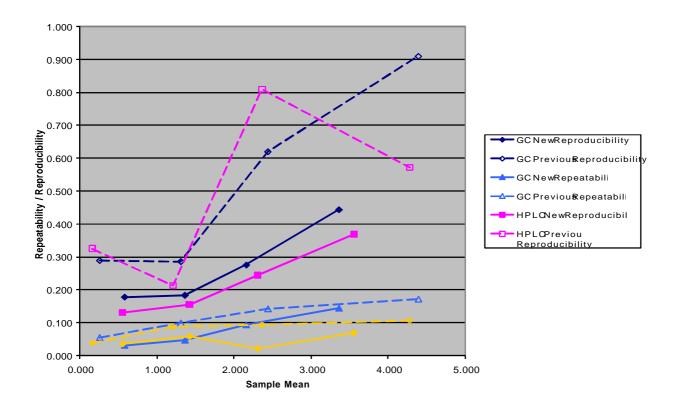


Table 4: CORESTA Collaborative Study of 1,2-Propylene Glycol and Glycerol Measurements – Comparison of Previous and Current Study Performance Measures (Excluding HPLC Lab 15)

		Propylene Glycol in Cut Loose Tobacco - GC Method										
	ı	Previous Stud	У		2007 Study							
	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4				
Mean	0.597	1.567	2.873	4.693	0.416	1.227	2.049	3.362				
r	0.046	0.079	0.120	0.244	0.016	0.057	0.067	0.135				
R	0.146	0.434	0.360	0.544	0.089	0.227	0.248	0.429				

		P	ropylene Glyc	col in Cut Loo	se Tobacco -	HPLC Metho	d*		
	ı	Previous Stud	у		2007 Study				
	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4	
Mean	0.585	1.568	2.724	4.723	0.439	1.251	2.103	3.573	
r	0.120	0.062	0.208	0.153	0.077	0.071	0.090	0.174	
R	0.530	0.315	0.825	0.48	0.358	0.408	0.503	0.307	

		Glycerol in Cut Loose Tobacco - GC Method										
	,	Previous Stud	У		2007 Study							
	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4				
Mean	0.260	1.291	2.444	4.462	0.585	1.387	2.202	3.386				
r	0.117	0.173	0.156	0.698	0.059	0.060	0.132	0.184				
R	0.325	0.401	0.522	2.668	0.163	0.236	0.313	0.418				

		Glycerol in Cut Loose Tobacco - HPLC Method*										
	ı	Previous Stud	y		2007 Study							
	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4				
Mean	0.223	1.244	2.442	4.396	0.560	1.413	2.324	3.707				
r	0.048	0.053	0.106	0.181	0.035	0.051	0.064	0.208				
R	0.448	0.311	0.862	1.369	0.129	0.196	0.217	0.450				

		Propylene Glycol in Ground Tobacco - GC Method										
	1	Previous Stud	y		2007 Study							
	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4				
Mean	0.591	1.549	2.803	4.580	0.404	1.181	2.011	3.303				
r	0.033	0.056	0.110	0.179	0.019	0.029	0.028	0.073				
R	0.090	0.170	0.334	0.514	0.058	0.204	0.210	0.360				

		Propylene Glycol in Ground Tobacco - HPLC Method*										
	ı	Previous Stud	'y		2007 Study							
	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4				
Mean	0.574	1.596	2.669	4.554	0.424	1.236	2.072	3.435				
r	0.054	0.067	0.102	0.096	0.050	0.054	0.093	0.075				
R	0.555	0.276	0.666	0.450	0.230	0.390	0.469	0.204				

			Glycero	ol in GroundT	obacco - GC	Method			
	ı	Previous Stud	y		2007 Study				
	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4	
Mean	0.259	1.311	2.439	4.389	0.584	1.365	2.159	3.361	
r	0.056	0.100	0.143	0.173	0.032	0.048	0.094	0.145	
R	0.289	0.286	0.620	0.910	0.178	0.183	0.276	0.444	

			Glycerol i	n Ground To	bacco - HPLC	Method*			
	F	Previous Stud	ly		2007 Study				
	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4	
Mean	0.167	1.211	2.367	4.281	0.558	1.425	2.307	3.555	
r	0.039	0.090	0.095	0.108	0.037	0.059	0.023	0.070	
R	0.328	0.214	0.810	0.572	0.131	0.155	0.245	0.369	

<sup>\*</sup>Note: r and R statistics for the HPLC methods are based on a very small number of laboratories, eight in the original study and four in this study with Lab 15 excluded.

#### 4. Recommendations

Analysis of the data showed that the larger r and R values found in the previous study were due to the lack of sample homogeneity. Therefore one recommendation is to prepare samples for humectants analysis as homogeneously as possible.

Another outcome of this study is to update CRM 60 and 61 to include the r and R statistics found in this study.

## **APPENDIX A: List of Participating Laboratories**

BAT RPC, GERMANY
BAT GR&D, U.K.
Imperial Tobacco, GERMANY
LTR Industries, FRANCE
ARISTA Laboratories U.S, U.S.A.
House of Prince, DENMARK
ALTADIS, FRANCE
JAPAN Tobacco Inc, JAPAN
JTI GALLAHER. U.K.
Rothmans B&H Inc., CANADA
BAT PPS, Africa Middle East, SOUTH AFRICA
PMI, SWITZERLAND
PTHM Sampoerna Tbk, INDONESIA
Landewyck Group Sarl, LUXEMBOURG
R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, U.S.A.
Labstat International, CANADA
KT&G, KOREA
Scandinavian Tobacco S.A., POLAND
Swedish Match, SWEDEN

#### **APPENDIX B: Study Protocol**

#### CORESTA SUB-GROUP ROUTINE ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY

#### **JOINT EXPERIMENT 2007**

#### **TEST PROTOCOL**

#### 1. Analytical Methods:

- a. CORESTA Recommended Method 60, <u>Determination of 1,2-Propylene Glycol and Glycerol in Tobacco Products by Gas</u> Chromatography
- b. CORESTA Recommended Method 61, <u>Determination of 1,2-Propylene Glycol and Glycerol in Tobacco Products by High Performance Liquid Chromatography</u>

Report any deviations from the methods listed above, as well as any observations you deem useful to share on attached Data Sheet 1.

If a methodology other than those specified for propylene glycol and glycerol are used, please document deviations carefully on the attached Data Sheet 1.

#### 2. SAMPLES

Upon receipt of samples store the sealed bags in an air conditioned room in order to ensure moderate ambient temperature (20-25 °C). Samples consist of four pouches of loose cut tobacco that have been carefully processed in a V Blender to improve homogeneity and four pouches of finely ground and homogenized tobacco. Samples contain nominally .4% - 3.3% Propylene Glycol and 0.5% - 3.3% Glycerol.

#### 3. TESTS

Samples should be analyzed "as received" and reported on Data Sheet 2 with no Oven Volatiles Correction. Perform each extraction in duplicate and inject each extract twice.

Note: Please retain samples (well sealed and stored at moderate ambient temperature) until results for the Joint Experiment are finalized.

#### 4. REPORTING

Report results to Linda Crumpler by **September 4, 2007** at the latest for inclusion in the data analysis to be presented at the October meeting of the Routine Analytical Chemistry Sub-Group.

Results should be sent electronically on the attached data sheets to e-mail address crumpll@rjrt.com.

APPENDIX C: Table Summarizing the Methodologies used by the Participating Laboratories.

(\*Indicates insignificant deviations from protocol)

			-		Deviations f	rom Protoco			
Lab	Followed	ODN 4	Internal	0.1	00.0	Sample	Extraction Vessel	Extraction	F.11. 1.1
ID	CRM	CRM	Standard	Column	GC Conditions	Amount	Size	Time	Filtration
1	Yes	60		DB-Wax 15m x 0.53mm i.d., 1µm film	Change in Temp. profile		200 mL		0.45 µm PTFE membrane filter
1A	Yes	61		Varian Metcarb 67C @ 95°C			200 mL		0.45 µm PTFE menbrane
2	Yes	60	1,3-butanediol	DB-Wax 15m x 0.53mm i.d., 1µm film	Change in Temp. profile	4g			
3	Yes	60		ZB 5 30m x 0.53mm i.d., 5µm film	Adjusted GC conditions & temp. profile				
4	Yes	60							
5	Yes	60							
6	Yes	60							
6A	Yes	61							
7	Yes	60				2 g/25 mL extraction solution		60 minutes shaking & 30 minute stand time	

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8	Yes	60	1,3-butanediol	Associates				
9	Yes	60						
10	Yes	60	n-undecane			2 g/25 mL extraction solution		
11	Yes	60	Ti-dilaccaric			301411011		
12	Yes	60	1,3-butanediol	J&W 5m x 0.2mm i.d., 0.4µm film DBWAX ETR	Adjusted GC conditions & temp. profile	8g/100 mL extraction solution	3 hours shake time	
13	Yes	61				2g/20 mL extraction solution		0.45 µm PTFE menbrane
14	*No	60	1,3-butanediol	Rtx-Wax 30m x 0.32mm i.d., 0.1µm film	Adjusted GC conditions & temp. profile	ASE 200 Solvent Extractor used		13mm PTFE syringe filter
15	*No	61		Monosacharide specific column (Ca <sup>2+</sup> based)		1g/50 mL H₂O	3 hours shake time	Nylon filter - SAX SPE tube combination
16	*No	61		Varian Metacarb H Plus 300 x 7.8mm	0.005M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> mobile phase	different		0.45 µm CA- membrane, SAX SPE
17	Yes	61				2g/50 mL H2O		