



Application Notes

Moisture in Tobacco – Measurements in the primary

Moisture % is critical throughout the whole tobacco process, from green leaf threshing to primary processing; it affects not only smoking quality, but also storage properties, “filling properties”, tobacco wastage and machine ability.

Primary Processing Plant

Different grades of tobacco are treated, blended and cut into “rag” to achieve a homogeneous final blend with good filling power and minimal wastage. The varying tobacco types undergo different processes on route to the final blending cylinder. The treatments include: conditioning, casing, toasting, re-ordering, rolling, cutting, expansion and drying, and nearly all require the product to be at an optimum moisture % prior to or post treatment.

Air cured lamina line, Burley:	DCC(Direct Cylinder Conditioning)- casing cylinder-toaster-re-orderer-leaf blender-cutter-dryer-final blender
Flue cured lamina line, Virginia:	DCC-leaf blender-cutter-dryer-final blender
Stem line:	DCC-cutters-expansion-dryer- final blender
Expanded tobacco:	DIET process-final blender
Add backs:	Reconditioning Sheet process-final blender

Measurement Locations

1. Exit Strip Conditioners; moisture distribution is very uneven, measurement recommended for trending purposes only.
2. Exit Stem Conditioners
3. Exit lamina cutters
4. Exit cut lamina dryers
5. Exit stem rollers
6. Exit stem cutters
7. Exit stem expansion process (WTS)
8. DIET line
9. Reconstituted sheet
10. Shorts (reclaimed from scrap cigarettes from manufacturing process)