

MEDULLATED DATA EXPLANATION

A medullated fibre is a hollow fibre and is generally weak or brittle. In white wool the fibre may appear a chalky white (low luster). As it is usually thicker and straighter than the bulk of the other surrounding fibres, it stands out. This hair is not desirable in fleece as it does not readily accept dye, hence minimizing the quality and value of the wool.

Fibre medullation in a representative sample to be tested is considered objectionable if 0.4% fibres or higher are medullated in the sample.

The OFDA100 uses Near Infrared light to locate and measure medullated fibres, hence only white or fawn coloured fibres can be measured for medullation.

IWTO-57-98 Standard Definitions for OFDA measurements of medullation

Normal medullated fibre	:	Fibres with opacity $\geq 80\%$
Objectionable medullated fibre	:	Fibres with opacity $>94\%$ and diameter $>25\mu\text{m}$
Flat medullated fibre	:	Fibres with opacity $<80\%$ that produce a wide light band ($>40\mu\text{m}$) Under dark field illumination and have diameter $>60\mu\text{m}$. These are highly medullated fibres that have collapsed to form a flat ribbon.
Total medullation	:	Sum of all medullated fibres compared to all fibres measured usually expressed as a percentage, or as a number per 10000.

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