



**Rhode Island**

29 May 2009

Smrithi Kumar

International Sales Manager, Q-Lab Corporation

800 Canterbury Road

Cleveland, OH 44145 USA

COLLEGE OF HUMAN SCIENCE AND SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT OF TEXTILES, FASHION MERCHANDISING AND DESIGN  
55 Lower College Road, Kingston, Rhode Island 02881-1966  
Phone (401) 874-4574 or 2276 Fax (401) 874-2581

Dear Smrithi:

We have had a few months now to appreciate our new XE-3 xenon test instrument. I am writing to tell you of our very positive experiences. As you know, at the University of Rhode Island we have a testing lab set up for undergraduate teaching, research, and to perform contract testing for people who contact us. I am pleased to say that the XE-3 has already proved itself in each of those roles.

Primarily it is used to give our undergraduate students hands-on experience of the quality control tests used in the "real world". We currently have around 450 majors, and each of them will spend a semester in this lab. Their textile testing lab experience is vastly improved by the addition of this instrument, and they can appreciate the design and use of a modern lightfastness testing machine as they test their fabrics. Some senior students take advanced courses in textile testing. The advantage of the XE-3 over our former machine is that it is simple and intuitive to operate: something that these students can do for themselves with minimal instruction. On a more complicated machine, the instructor was required to perform the operations.

We have begun to use the machine in some research projects. We are continuing to work on new lightfastness standard materials. Our earlier work on this resulted in one of our students winning second place in AATCC's student paper competition. Once again, the easy operation of the XE-3 mean that students can feel more in control of their projects. The simple calibration procedures for the XE-3 ensure that our results are accurate, which is vital when our results are being compared to those being generated in other labs.

We have also used the machine to help organizations outside the University. One student was working part-time for a fabric designer this semester. The fabrics were intended for upholstery and drapes, and the student tested the lightfastness of a new range of printed fabrics to ensure their satisfactory performance in use. The designer was assured, the student got valuable experience, and our lab generated some income that we will use to purchase supplies.

Through all this, we have been impressed by the user-friendliness of the calibration and use of the XE-3. It is also notably quiet in its operation (we do not need to shut it down while the students are in the lab!). I can also commend the support we received as the machine was being installed and readied for use. The folks from Q-Lab were most friendly and helpful.

I can recommend the XE-3 and the support that comes with it most highly. Please contact me if you have questions at (401) 874-2276, or [mbide@uri.edu](mailto:mbide@uri.edu).

Sincerely!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin Bide".

Martin Bide