

TOTAL PERFORMANCE INDEX

Reproducers entered in ITALPACA will be screened/judged through a performance test, i.e. a test directly on the animal (as opposed to methods taking into consideration progeny, pedigree and collaterality, i.e. judging an animal through it's cria, it's parents or it's sisters/brothers, cousins, etc.).

The animals will be screened/judged under the following characteristics (phenotypes):

- a) weight of total fleece at first shearing (one year)
- b) fineness of fleece at first shearing (one year)
- c) variation of fineness (one year)
- d) morphological-linear screening/judging, at age one year, comprising the following characteristics:
 - o characteristics of the population
 - o volume of the head
 - o width of the chest
 - o inclination of the back/rump
 - o robustness of the legs

Each characteristic is assigned a PARTIAL PERFORMANCE INDEX (PPI), i.e. an estimate of the phenotypical and genetic value of the animal with regard to the characteristic under consideration. It is arrived at by correcting the phenotypical gross value (i.e. the one measured directly on the animal), applying known genetic and non-genetic factors which affect the characteristics (age, sex, farm, etc.). In this way the following partial performance indices are estimated:

- pI weight of fleece
- pI fineness
- pI variability of fineness
- pI characteristics of the population
- pI volume of the head
- pI width of the chest
- pI inclination of back/rump
- pI robustness of the legs

All these indices will then be combined to arrive at a single phenotypical and genetic value for the animal, which will be called TOTAL PERFORMANCE INDEX (TPI). The individual performance values will not be given the same weight, they will be weighted as follows:

- pI weight of fleece = 10%;
- pI fineness = 35%;
- pI variability of fineness = 15%;

Performance indices, total = 40%, distributed as follows:

- pI characteristics of the population = 60% (24% when brought to 100)
- pI volume of the head = 15% (6% when brought to 100)
- pI width of the chest = 15% (6% when brought to 100)

- pI inclination of back/rump = 5% (2% when brought to 100)
- pI robustness of the legs = 5% (2% when brought to 100)

The TPI is therefore a single figure combining all the PPIs and establishing whether an alpaca can be considered, in its entirety (i.e. considering at the same moment in time the characters forming the base for selection), to be an improver reproducer or not.

The above translation by R. Steiger is insofar unofficial as it has not been approved by Italpaca as being technically and legally correct.