

WEIGHTING FACTORS FOR ANALYSIS OF SIGHTING REPORTS

In the analysis of sighting reports it is fairly obvious that different reports will have widely different values from the viewpoints of reliability, confirmation and lucidity. A formula has been devised giving approximately the same significance to each of these factors and derived from numerical values assigned to the answers given to the various questions on the sighting report.

The formula is as follows: weight equals the cube root of the product of the reliability, confirmation and lucidity factors each expressed as decimals.

To facilitate obtaining numerical values for each of the factors, a scheme has been worked out for assigning points to each question such that for each factor the maximum possible score would be 100%. An equalizing scheme has been included so as to reduce to a minimum the opinion or judgment of the person assigning the score. It is expected that in this manner reasonably consistent scores will be obtained from which the various factors may be determined and the overall weighting factor calculated.

It should be noted that the cube root feature of the weighting factor minimizes the effect of any one particular aspect of the report and allows better assessment on the overall report.