Reviewer's report

Title: Objective assessment of dental fluorosis in an epidemiological setting

Version: 3 Date: 23 January 2012

Reviewer: Jeroen Kroon

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. The manuscript should be proofread for correct English and sentence construction. Although this is required for the entire manuscript, it applies especially to the Background and Methods sections - see examples on the attached pages.

2. In the Results section I wish the authors to indicate what Kappa scores were deemed to be acceptable for results shown in Tables 3 and 4 and elaborate on this more in the Discussion section. Some of these values seem very borderline.

3. For Tables 5 and 6 I wish the authors to point out the gold standard used in these two tables. Although this is mentioned in the Discussion section, it would be appropriate to highlight this in the Results section as well.

4. The list of Figures (page 25) goes up to Figure 5, yet there were 9 figures included in the manuscript. It seems as if Figures 4-6 are linked to image set 1 (current Figure 4 in the list of Figures) and Figures 7-9 to image set 2 (current Figure 5 in the list of Figures). This needs to be corrected. I suggest that it remains as is in the list of Figures but that the three figures which make up an image set are presented as a single figure clearly indicating which image is PWL, 35 mm and QLF - this isn't currently the case.

5. On page 5, second paragraph, a study in Thailand and the UK is quoted, but no references are included.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. For Table 3 I suggest you indicate that TF was used by Examiner 1 & 2 and Deans Index by Examiners 3 & 4 (similar to Table 2).

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests