StatFolio Alerts

Summary

StatFolios can be configured to generate alerts when unusual events occur. Alerts are currently generated by the following:

1. Statistical process control charts
2. Process capability analysis procedures

The alert mechanism is most effective for StatFolios that either poll their data repeatedly or are refreshed at periodic intervals (such as every night). Once an alert is generated, its information is stored in a message alert file to prevent its being generated again.

Operation

To implement the alert mechanism, you first create a StatFolio with one or more procedures. Then select *StatFolio Alerts* from the *Tools* menu. This will display the dialog box shown below:

- **Alert message file**: Select a message file in which alerts will be stored once they are generated. Since alerts are stored in a comma–delimited file, you may select any file name ending with *.csv*. Alert message files allow you to review historical alerts and also prevent the same alert from being issued more than once.

- **Location control charts**: Specify the condition(s) that will cause an alert to be generated from charts involving the mean, proportion, or count.

- **Dispersion control charts**: Specify the condition(s) that will cause an alert to be generated from charts involving the range or standard deviation.

- **Capability analysis**: Specify the condition(s) that will cause an alert to be generated from procedures that estimate process capability.

- **Actions**: Select the action(s) to occur whenever an alert is generated. In the case of e-mail alerts, you must specify e-mail addresses for both the sender and recipients.

The selections made on this dialog box are stored in the StatFolio.

Note: Once an alert message file is established, you should take care not to erase it. Otherwise, old alerts may be regenerated the next time the procedures in the StatFolio are updated.

Displaying Historical Alerts

The *Display* button on the above dialog box displays the contents of the selected alert message file:

The fields are:

1. **Date/Time** – the date and time when the alert was generated.
2. **Alert** – the type of alert.
3. **StatFolio** – the name of the StatFolio that generated the alert (more than one StatFolio may share the same alert file).
4. **Variable** – the name of the variable that generated the alert.
5. **Chart** – the type of chart on which the alert was generated.
6. **Location** – for control charts, the location of the point that generated the alert.
7. **Violation** – the type of violation.
8. **Action** – the action that was taken.

You can review the alerts and make annotations if you wish.