ZURICH
Resilience Solutions

Zurich Resilience Solutions Tribometry Program

What is a Tribometrist?

A Tribometrist is a professional who studies slip resistance. Zurich Resilience Solutions has trained Risk Engineers in the use of the English XL VIT slipmeter.

Testing of six paint samples showed that a flat latex paint provided the most slip resistance, followed by yellow parking lot marking paint.

What is a CXLT designation?

A number of ZRS's Tribometrists maintain a CXLT designation. The certification is achieved by successfully completing the manufacturer's course. The program is intended to promote a high level of knowledge in slip resistant measurement.

Where are Zurich Risk Engineering Tribometerists located?

Currently, throughout the United States. A list of Zurich's Contacts (by location) are referenced on the back cover page.

Caution Wet Floor

What instruments are used?

Zurich Resilience Solutions uses the English XL VIT slipmeter. As identified by ASTM F-13 Committee on Pedestrian/ Walkway Safety and Footwear, this slip meter provides horizontal and vertical or normal forces at the same time, similar to human ambulation.

Slip meters that do not apply these forces simultaneously are afflicted with sticktion, when wet, or adhesion, when dry. In some cases, these devices will indicate wet surfaces are safer than dry surfaces due to the extra time needed for the slip meter to activate.

What is the minimum threshold of safety when measuring slip resistance?

A reading of .50 slip resistance or higher, when wet, with a credible slip meter is considered the minimum threshold of safety at Zurich. Zurich recommends .60 for most walking/working surfaces and .80 and higher for areas that are typically wet, greasy, etc., and sloped walkways or ramps under anticipated environmental conditions.

Proper set up of English XL VIT being evaluated before testing of a stair nosing begins.

What are the practical uses of tribometery?

Pre-Incident

- Educate the public, including designers, architects, project managers, and decision-makers, on the current dilemma of businesses installing unsafe walking/working surfaces. Smooth hard surfaces normally have acceptable slip resistance when dry. When wet, these aesthetically pleasing surfaces typically have low slip resistance.
- Test samples of flooring materials before purchase rather than after installation when problems are noted
- Identify unsafe walking surfaces
- Measure effectiveness of slip resistant products and/or processes
- Measure floor cleaning effectiveness and identify poor cleaning practices
- Educate management on slip resistance via a comprehensive walking/working surface risk assessment

Post-Incident

- Post-accident investigations
  - Validate slip resistance of current walking/working surfaces
  - Provide training/insight to management on slip, trip and fall exposures
  - Identify/suggest potential remedies

Testing of painted asphalt.

Reports

Comprehensive walking/working surface risk assessment report will be provided depending on floor surfaces tested.

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To schedule slip meter testing, please call or send an Email to one of our ZRS' STF Specialists referenced below:

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A1-112014890-G (08/2024) P0346005

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