

EXCEL TRIBOMETERS, LLC

Newsletter

March 10, 2010

EXCEL TRIBOMETERS, LLC wishes to express our appreciation for the overwhelmingly positive responses to our February Newsletter. The Newsletter also stimulated many one-on-one discussions, and requests for assistance or more information. All of your comments and concerns are welcome and will be thoroughly addressed. Your communications are treated with respect, and kept in the strictest of confidence.

Your expressed support for our goals and objectives set out in the February Newsletter is very encouraging. It is our ambition to work hard to advance the field of slip resistance measurement and walkway safety in general, and specifically to promote a high level of competence and thus a high level of confidence in the results of testing performed using the English XL VIT by all users.

XL VIT USER GUIDE

If you have not yet done so, every XL VIT user is strongly encouraged to please go to the EXCEL TRIBOMETERS, LLC web site and download the current **XL VIT User Guide**, which might explain things more thoroughly than what you have learned so far about operation of the XL VIT. The User Guide is an added tool to assure we are all using the XL VIT consistently and exactly the same way.

TEST FOOT PREPARATION

Many of you wrote and called to say how beneficial the detailed **test foot preparation** techniques in the XL VIT User Guide were when calibrating your test foot. Calibrating the test foot by following the simple, clear, step-by-step procedures before each series of slip resistance metering is essential to achieving more reliable and accurate slip resistance metering results.

INSTRUMENT CALIBRATION IS DIFFERENT THAN TEST FOOT CALIBRATION

One thing has been proven over and over in the many slip resistance studies and the published research. If your XL VIT is in sound condition, if the slip meter instrument is properly calibrated, and if you use your slipmeter according to the XL VIT User Guide, then the condition and calibration of **the test foot is the only significant variable** in the accuracy and reliability of testing results with the XL VIT.

Use extra care when you calibrate your test foot. First, make sure your XL VIT is current with its annual *instrument* calibration and refurbishing. Annual *instrument* calibration and refurbishing is **not the same** as *test foot* calibration. Extensive recent testing and research has shown test foot calibration must be performed before each metering episode, not only for the XL VIT, but for any tribometer that uses Neolite® as the test foot material.

SANDPAPER IS CRITICAL

One of the most important recent discoveries is how critical the cleanliness of the sandpaper is to anyone who is preparing a *Neolite*® - surfaced test foot for slip resistance metering. The presence of **sanding dust** on the test foot may significantly affect results. The sandpaper should always be sharp and clean. We are recommending a new quarter sheet of 180 grit Silicon Carbide sandpaper for each metering episode. As a general rule, the sandpaper is no longer clean enough if there is any visible Neolite® sanding dust after vigorous brushing with the filings brush provided with your XL VIT.

The sanding block provided with the English XL VIT slipmeter should be reserved for limited, select field testing. If the field testing is more than one surface at one location, you should have fresh sandpaper available.

EXCEL TRIBOMETERS, LLC now provides with each new XL VIT slipmeter a 5 inches square coated backing board with an initial supply of five (5) 5 inches diameter self-adhesive 180 grit Silicon Carbide sanding discs for convenient use and easy field replacement. If you would like to order from us separately, we offer the backing board plus ten (10) sanding discs for \$35.00, plus \$7.00 shipping and handling. Additional 10-packs of sanding discs are available from EXCEL TRIBOMETERS, LLC for \$25.00 plus \$7.00 shipping and handling. The shipping and handling charges are waived when combined with other shipments.

When the test foot is prepared off the slip meter, a quarter sheet of fresh, clean 180 grit Silicon Carbide sandpaper, held flat on a hard smooth surface, such as a countertop or smooth hard floor, is ideal.

Always use hard-backed sandpaper. Round-edged test feet give biased results.

RECENT CXLT CERTIFICATION PROGRAM GRADUATES

The results of the January 2010 CXLT class and examinations have been evaluated and personally announced to the candidates. The **experts** who are now entitled to use the **CXLT designation** are:

Richard Aiken	Hal Deathcrage	Robert Debner
Mark Diehm	Susan Evans	Frank Fore
Martin Fourier	Marc Leduc	Paul Morris
Richard Nellis	Susan Pacciorini	Mark Pierce
Sergio Rochin	Francis Roth	Steve Sanfilippo
Joseph Skaggs	Steve Weber	Zachariah Weimer
Daniel Zachreson	Donald Zeck	

NEXT CXLT CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The updated and expanded **CXLT certification program** described on the **EXCEL TRIBOMETERS, LLC** website has been well-received. Candidates are already starting to sign up for the June 6, 2010 program in Philadelphia. There has also been expressed interest in our on-site programs for as many as thirty candidates. If you are one of the many organizations that have a large staff who are interested in tribometry and walkway safety, we will come to you.

Holding the CXLT certification assures your **recognition and respect** as an expert who is knowledgeable, competent, and proficient in walkway safety and in the use of the XL VIT. Anyone who wants to perform a competent risk assessment of a walkway, or flooring and footwear products, needs to establish a strong foundation in the principles of safety engineering, the sciences of walkway safety, the scientific and mechanical aspects of the available slipmeters, and the effects of reasonably foreseeable variables on the performance of slipmeters. The certification also shows the CXLT had extensive hands-on instruction in the proper use of the XL Variable Incidence Tribometer and proved his or her proficiency with the most respected slip meter.

The **next CXLT class** will be conducted by **EXCEL TRIBOMETERS, LLC** on June 6, 2010, at the Microtel Inn and Suites, at the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania airport. Rooms have been reserved at \$79.99 for the night before. The hotel has a free shuttle from the terminals, and is within walking distance to the train into Center City Philadelphia. ASTM F13 meets June 7 and 8 in West Conshohocken. Space is limited to 22 classmates, so reserve early. Go to the [EXCEL TRIBOMETERS, LLC website](#) for the rates and application.

INSTRUMENT CALIBRATION AND REFURBISHING SERVICE

Your XL VIT is a scientific instrument and requires regular instrument calibration and refurbishing, as with any similar credible metering device. From now until October, 2010, for those of you who are not current and your slipmeter is more than 1 year overdue, we are offering an **amnesty** option of \$300 plus parts. Even if your slipmeter needs major repair, the charges will be limited to a maximum of the standard rate of \$200 plus the surcharge of \$100 per year overdue, which may save money for our customers who have neglected to have their slipmeter refurbished for an extended period of time.

Please keep in mind that if you maintain your tribometer by sending it for service at the proper intervals, **we will repair anything** within 6 months following service, for shipping costs only, unless there is clear evidence of physical abuse or extraordinarily extensive use. Some machines are shared by many and used constantly. Those slipmeters need servicing more often.

Please contact us if you require **spare test feet**. Also, if you have a shoe bottom material that you would like to have us mount for you, we would appreciate that opportunity as well.

NATIONAL FLOOR SAFETY INSTITUTE NFSI B101.1 STANDARD

NFSI B101.1 is a controversial recent standard developed by the National Floor Safety Institute that presents a ranking system for walkway surfaces based on measurement of “wet static coefficient of friction.” The NFSI B101.1 standard is a separate stand-alone document that does **not** replace, negate, supplant, or diminish the requirements of any of the established standards and codes, particularly those detailed in the **EXCEL TRIBOMETERS, LLC** website.

Recent correspondence to **EXCEL TRIBOMETERS, LLC** from the secretary of the NFSI clarified that “The ANSI/NFSI B101.1-2009 standard and the LOI (Letter of Intent) do not reference human ambulation studies nor attempts to mimic such. It simply sets forth the method by which wet SCOF can be measured. The ANSI/NFSI B101.1-2009 standard does not set forth to discuss or define any relationship between wet SCOF measurements and human ambulation.”

There is no dispute that the English XL VIT is a valid tribometer for measuring slip resistance representative of human ambulation. There is no dispute that the NFSI B101.1 standard is simply based on measuring “wet static coefficient of friction,” with no representations relative to human ambulation.

The XL VIT remains unchallenged as an established, recognized, accepted scientific instrument that mimics significant biomechanical parameters of the human walking gait.

The dynamics of the English XL VIT specifically permit measurement of slip resistance in wet conditions because there is no residence time.

We have prepared a **formal application** to the National Floor Safety Institute to have them remove their negative declaration concerning the English XL VIT that they published in the NFSI B101.1 Letter of Interpretation. Our submission to the NFSI is founded on a spirit of cooperation for the advancement of floor safety, and presents a detailed package of scientific principles and well-documented precision performance for the English XL VIT.

It is our belief that we have clearly and scientifically demonstrated in our application that the English XL VIT conforms, step-by-step, to the relevant definitions contained in the NFSI B101.1 standard to achieve an accurate, scientific measure of “wet static coefficient of friction” as defined in the NFSI B101.1 standard (notwithstanding the definitive lack of scientific or other accepted representations that “wet static coefficient of friction” as defined in the NFSI B101.1 standard has any significance relative to human ambulation, and notwithstanding there is no relationship between “wet static coefficient of friction” as defined in the NFSI B101.1 standard, and slip resistance measurement, according to the existing accepted tribometric definitions of slip resistance, including the NFSI’s own definition of slip resistance in the NFSI B101.1 standard). Further, we believe we have proved that the English XL VIT substantially conforms to all significant aspects of the criteria set by the NFSI to approve a tribometer as set forth in the NFSI B101.1 standard and Letter of Interpretation. We will keep you posted on our progress.

We **value your input** and questions, and look forward to hearing from you. You may contact Peter directly at 757-897-2853, or by email at *pwidas@EXCELTRIBOMETERS.com*.

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