

Newsletter - Memorial Day Edition

May 31, 2012

HISTORY VERSUS CURRENCY

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. There is evidence that organized women's groups in the South were decorating graves before the end of the Civil War: a hymn published in 1867, "Kneel Where Our Loves are Sleeping" by Nella L. Sweet carried the dedication "To The Ladies of the South who are Decorating the Graves of the Confederate Dead". It is not important who was the very first, what is important is that Memorial Day was established. Memorial Day is not about division. It is about reconciliation; it is about coming together to honor those who gave their all. (www.usmemorialday.org)

Historical accuracy in our endeavors in meaningful tribometry is actually very significant. As has been emphasized repeatedly in our [Newsletters](#), regardless of how long or how much you have used the XL VIT, you have to read and follow the instructions in the current User Guide to get valid, accurate, and repeatable results with the XL VIT. The ASTM F2508 Validations of the XL VIT confirmed that, too. But we still see a few tribometers come in for Instrument Calibration that have domed test feet, which means those users are not following the simple instructions.

The days are over of using your XL VIT "your way," even though you always have, and always will, get meaningful results that are appropriate, proper and accurate for relative ranking of practical slip and fall injury risk. Notwithstanding, in today's critical environment, we must all follow the same protocol to get the same statistically analyzed and statistically significant results. We all must study and practice our techniques as defined in the [User Guide](#). It is not only easy, it is necessary.

- The only way to know you are sanding the test foot properly is to calibrate the test foot by following the protocol in the current [User Guide](#).
- To get accurate, repeatable results, machine to machine, operator to operator, all test feet must be prepared in the same way.
- All XL users, even our most loyal and supportive users, must read and follow the current User Guide to get accurate, repeatable results.
- Everyone must read and understand the discussions on this point in the EXCEL TRIBOMETERS, LLC, Newsletters ([Newsletter Dec 21, 2011](#), [Newsletter Sept. 30, 2011](#), [Newsletter Aug. 18, 2011](#), [Newsletter Oct. 14, 2010](#)).

Being current makes you proficient, all you have to do is read what is given to you and follow the instructions.

STUFF THE TURKEY, NOT YOUR CARRYING CASE

The XL VIT soft carrying case is designed to fit only the instrument and its accessories. Stuffing the carrying case with extra items, particularly in the end pockets, impinges on the space available to the slipmeter, and may damage the brass 'ankle'.

When shipping your XL VIT, remove all books, parts and accessories from the carrying case pockets. Put the slipmeter in the soft case, with the mast set to the 0.05 slip resistance reading on the protractor.



Fill the space in the soft case over the regulator with bubble wrap or 'air bags' to keep the meter seated at the bottom of the case.



Then snap the case closed, and put it in a box with enough packing that it **will not move when shaken**.

June 2012 CXLT PROGRAM – SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

‘Early Registration’ fees are extended through Tuesday, June 12, 2012.

Seats are still available at the next **CXLT Certification Program** which will be conducted by **EXCEL TRIBOMETERS, LLC**, on Wednesday, June 27, 2012, from 8am to 5pm in San Diego, California, at the San Diego Marriott Mission Valley. A block of rooms has been reserved at a special rate. Space at the hotel and in the Program is limited, so be sure to send in your Program registration and **reserve early**. Contact the hotel directly for room reservations at 1-800-228-9290.

The current program is constantly being improved to maximize the value for your investment, with expanded sciences and extensive hands-on instruction with the instrument. First time CXLT program participants, very experienced XL users who wanted a refresher, as well as CXLT’s who chose to retake the course and the test to maintain their current status have all touted the program.

To read comments received, check out: [CXLT Program Testimonials](#)

ALL XL VIT OWNERS SHOULD CONSIDER THE CXLT PROGRAM

Of course, we encourage anyone who owns an XL VIT who has never taken the program to please do so in order to ensure your compliance with both the understanding of the science and principles of walkway safety and slip resistance metering, as well as proper and accurate use of the XL VIT. Please consider the importance of your participation.

Holding the CXLT certification assures your **recognition and respect** as one who is knowledgeable, competent, and proficient in walkway safety, meaningful tribometry, and in the use of the XL VIT. Anyone who wants to perform a competent risk assessment of a walkway, or evaluate 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 walkways and slipmeters. The certification also shows the CXLT had extensive hands-on instruction in the proper use of the XL VIT and proved his or her proficiency with the most respected slip meter.

Make sure you review the **updated and expanded** [CXL Certification Program](#) on the EXCEL TRIBOMETERS, LLC, website. Also please keep in mind on-site programs are available if you are one of the many organizations that have a large staff who are interested in tribometry and walkway safety.

CXL REGISTRY: CXL'S-PLEASE STAY CURRENT!

The CXL certification has become such a **recognized, respected** and significant credential in the world of walkway safety and meaningful tribometry EXCEL TRIBOMETERS, LLC, is regularly contacted by attorneys and other parties to verify whether people representing themselves in court as CXL's actually are, and to see if they are current and in good standing.

Please check and make sure you are current. We do our best to send out reminders to alert you when the renewal process should be completed, but if your contact information changed, you are on your own to renew. Please make sure you keep us up to date with your contact information.

Unfortunately and regretfully, a few CXL's are **revoked** every month for not renewing. Hopefully, they no longer need to be a CXL; otherwise, they have lost a credential that is increasingly more important.

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. The fee for XL VIT instrument calibration, if you are on time, is \$250. For those of you who are not current and your slipmeter is overdue, we are offering new standard pricing of \$350 plus parts, which encourages overdue XL VIT users to bring their instrument up to date. The XL VIT instrument calibration is **not the same** as the F2508 calibration, which is not the same as the F2508 validation testing and reporting. The extensive testing, on the four (4) reference surfaces, with special cleaning procedures and reagents, and the required calibration reporting, are all much more extensive than the XL VIT calibration and refurbishing.

Please keep in mind that if you maintain your tribometer by sending it for the XL VIT instrument calibration 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.

Note our updated mailing address that provides a more secure facility for receiving your equipment.

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

Thank you for your participation in the continuing efforts for advancements in the field of walkway safety and meaningful tribometry.

Peter Widas, BSMSE, CXLT, Vice President, Chief Operating Officer

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