

# Newsletter

*April 19, 2013*

## **HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH ACCURACY?**

The current EXCEL TRIBOMETERS, LLC XL VIT [User Guide](#) requires test foot calibration on a certified calibration tile before each testing episode. That was not always the case. The precision required to satisfy current ASTM F2508 standard for validating, calibrating and certifying walkway tribometers substantially reduces the permissible variations in test foot preparation. The values formerly assigned to calibration tiles were based on the much wider tolerance for test foot preparation. What was (*and still is*) more than sufficient to properly assess the real world risk for a human slip and fall injury events is no longer enough to reliably comply with the F2508 criteria. As we move forward, let us not forget our main purpose – to assess the real-world risk for a slip and fall injury event.

EXCEL TRIBOMETERS, LLC has developed a standardized test foot preparation device. The Sander makes it easy for all users to achieve the required precision for F2508. Henceforth, calibration tiles will have an assigned value based on the Sander. As described in the current XL VIT [User Guide](#), you do not necessarily have to use a Sander if you can consistently produce reliable test foot preparation results on your certified calibration tile.

Note that the Sander was developed to consistently produce the 0.20 ( $\pm 0.03$ ) wet on the XL Calibration Tile. This value has been the calibration value used in the many round-robins and research papers that have repeatedly proven the efficacy of the XL VIT. It is important to also consider that the shape of a test foot prepared with the Sander (or by hand the same as the “Sander”) is not perfectly flat, which mimics the characteristics of the worn heel contact area observed in analysis of footwear from actual, real world, slip and fall injury events.

Everyone who has an XL Calibration Tile should always send their tile (properly packaged), with their XL VIT when they send the slipmeter in for annual Instrument Calibration. XL Calibration Tiles formerly certified by EXCEL TRIBOMETERS, LLC will be re-certified or verified at no charge.

**USER GUIDE UPDATE**

The current version of the XL VIT [User Guide](#) is dated July 4, 2012. Please make sure you are up to date; download, review and follow the current version. The XL VIT will produce extraordinarily accurate and repeatable results in the meaningful range of slip resistance values for walkway surfaces. The XL VIT will properly assess and rank the real-world risk for human slip and fall injury events, provided the instrument is properly maintained and used according to the XL VIT [User Guide](#). *Staying current and following the instructions makes you proficient!*

**NEW CERTIFIED XL TRIBOMETRISTS**

The January 2013 CXLT Program once again received strong support and rave reviews. The new and returning CXLT's now entitled to use the CXLT designation are listed below and on the website (click here for the [CXLT Registry](#)). Congratulations to all!

Melissa S. Abe	WEXCO International	
Mark R. Barrow	Rimkus Consulting Group	
William Bourque	SeaWorld	
Robert W. Buckert	J2 Engineering Inc	
Traci K. Campbell, PE	BEC Consulting	
Matt Clerc	Wolverine Worldwide Inc	
Kenny Cogburn	Orlando Health	
Jeff T. Cook	Rimkus Consulting Group	
Donald Detry	Rimkus Consulting Group	
Susan Evans, CIH, CSP, P.E., CXLT	MDE Inc	Current CXLT
Jeffrey P. Jarvela	Cliffs Natural Resources	
David P. Johnson	Donan Engineering	
Paul R. McDonald	Cliffs Natural Resources	
John M. Paquet	CED Technologies Inc	
Daniel Robison	Robson Forensic	
Joseph D. Skaggs, P.E.	CASE Forensics Corp	Current CXLT
Christian C. Steputat, P.E.	Kimley-Horn	
John C. Suter	Hanover Insurance	
Stephen R. Tyler	Arthur J Gallagher	
George Wharton, P.E.	CED Technologies Inc	Former CXLT
Donald Zeck	CASE Forensics Corp	Current CXLT

**NEXT CXLT PROGRAM: Philadelphia, PA**

The next [CXLT Certification Program](#) conducted by EXCEL TRIBOMETERS, LLC, will be on Sunday, June 2, 2013 in Philadelphia, PA. The Program will be held at the Sheraton Suites Philadelphia Airport. A block of rooms is available for

the night before the Program at the special rate of \$109.00. Reservations must be made by May 11, 2013 to receive the special rate. The Sheraton provides a shuttle from the airport. On-site parking is \$7.00 per day. 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:

Sheraton Suites Philadelphia Airport  
4101 Island Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19153  
(215) 220-4652

The Program is constantly being improved to maximize the value for your investment. The Program offers expanded sciences and extensive hands-on instruction with the instrument. First time CXLT program participants, experienced XL users wanting 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 the [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 an expert 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** [CXLT 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.

**CXLT REGISTRY: CXLT'S-PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION IS CURRENT!**

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

**F2508 CALIBRATION**

Do you need to have the F2508 Calibration performed on your XL? The best answer is "it depends." If you are in an environment where you need to represent you have an ASTM F2508 Validated walkway tribometer, then "yes" you need to have a current F2508 Calibration, since F2508 Calibration is part of the F2508 Validation process, as defined in the standard practice. The interval for F2508 Calibration is annual, as defined in the standard practice. Click here for a more extensive discussion ([Newsletter Sept. 30, 2011](#)).

**EXCEL TRIBOMETERS, LLC**, offers F2508 Calibration for those who request it at the time of purchase of a new instrument for \$750.00. For F2508 Calibration at any other time for any XL VIT, the fee is \$950.00. Due to the extensive testing required, please call ahead to schedule your F2508 Calibration.

**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](mailto: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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