

# Newsletter

***September 23, 2014***

Please note our **Chesapeake, Virginia, mailing address** that provides a secure facility for receiving your equipment. We have recently received several English XL's at old addresses.

## **Let's Get Real** (Real-World, that is)

The never-ending battle for truth and justice rages on... Reported discussions at the most recent ASTM meeting again attempted to address the lofty goal of establishing safety criteria for walkway surfaces. The general gist of the current concept is to assign a number as the threshold of safety, as measured by a **particular** make and model walkway tribometer, by taking a reading on a Reference Surface C ASTM adjunct vinyl tile with the tribometer of consideration, then add a **multiple of the standard deviation** derived from statistical manipulations, or multiply the measured value by a **safety factor**.

Obviously, the concept of adding a multiple of the standard deviation is related to the **repeatability** of the instrument, not to **walkway safety**, and thus seems fruitless.

Notwithstanding the documented statistical **variability** in the measured values of the vinyl tiles intra- and inter-tile associated with the properties of the tile (not anything to do with the tribometer), the more significant issue with the Reference Surface C material is truly knowing the relative real-world slip and fall injury risk. Relying on the filtered (no raw data is available) and interpreted (not counting all heel slips) performance of 80 pre-qualified healthy young people, wearing new freshly-cleaned soft-material shoe bottom footwear, in a laboratory, wearing a harness, suspended from a trolley, has not been proven to relate to the **risk** for slip and fall injury of the **at-risk population in real-world conditions**.

The best way to establish the risk for injury to real-world people in real-world conditions is with real-world data. To that end, **EXCEL TRIBOMETERS, LLC** is offering to be the central repository of slip and fall data compiled by you, the users of the various walkway tribometers, for actual real-world slip and fall injury events.

We are open to suggestions on how to best construct the database, and acquire and process the data. The following is a proposed list of information, which would contain no specifics that would identify the location, persons, or otherwise

compromise confidentiality in litigated matters, as an initial attempt at a proposed format for the data:

Character of Location (fast food kitchen, restaurant dining area, interior retail store, mall common area corridor, interior, exterior and, exterior walkway, hospital corridor, etc.)

Walkway Surface Material (honed marble/granite/stone, sealed steel-trowel finish Portland cement concrete, glazed/matte-finish/grit-impregnated ceramic tile, raw/sealed/polished vinyl tile, raw/sealed/smooth/rough-grain hard/softwood, etc.)

Walkway Surface Condition/Contaminant (clean, dry, wet with water, motor oil, banana peel, cherry tomato, grape, shampoo, french fry, cooking grease, flour, baby powder, pollen, sawdust, cardboard box cuttings, etc.)

Footwear Type (flip-flop, open toe slip-on, sneaker, oxford, men's dress, high heel, boot, etc.)

Footwear Bottom Material (heel and fore-part, hardness, overall condition, evidence of original tread, size and shape of wear at heel contact area, etc.)

Gait Dynamics (age range of victim: 0-20, 21-40, 40-60, greater than 60; known pre-event gait anomalies, etc.)

Walkway Tribometer (make, model, age, confirm Instrument Calibration current if any, confirm used according to current manufacturers instructions, list significant operating parameters: pressure (English XL), others: weight applied, speed of pull, etc.)

Walkway Tribometer Test Foot (material, test foot calibration technique, when test for calibration performed, etc.)

Slip Resistance Measurement (number of readings, average value)

As indicated, data from all types of walkway tribometers are welcome. Once initial feedback on the content is received, a form will be developed to be filled out on a website by the information donor. Some form of review to qualify the data will be developed only to the extent to preclude any "ballot box stuffing." The databank would be accessible to everyone, and only able to be altered with the administrator's approval. A review board could be established to be the administrator to avoid any contentions of impropriety.

We would hope that you all see the value in a publicly available data bank for this invaluable information. Once set up and running, we encourage you to spend an hour or two to review your historic files for reliable data to enter into the bank, and then enter new data as acquired.

As usual, we value your input and comments, and look forward to hearing from you.

### **NEW CERTIFIED XL TRIBOMETRISTS**

The July 2014 CXL Program once again received strong support and rave reviews. The new and returning CXL's now entitled to use the CXL designation are listed below and on the website (click here for the [CXL Registry](#)). Congratulations to all!

Justin Brink	American Bio Engineers	
Michael B. Cahill	SEA Limited	
Amor Camacho	Rimkus Consulting Group	Current CXL
James L. Cunningham	Rimkus Consulting Group	
Robin Joy Davies	Bracken Engineering	
Angelina G. Fairchild	Kimley-Horn	Current CXL
Russell R. Fote	Russell Fote and Associates, Inc	
Suzanne Glowiak	CED Technologies	
Srinivas Kadiyala	Florida Forensic Engineering Inc	
Erick Knox	ESI	
James F. Koester	Rimkus Consulting Group	
Jason R. Legg	Rimkus Consulting Group	
Laura Lynn Liptai, PhD	Biomedical Forensics	
Anne C. Mathias	ESI	
Lokman "Luke" M. Sharara	Rimkus Consulting Group	
Sarah Sharpe	Exponent	
Robert Anthony Swift	Rimkus Consulting Group	
Paul Brown Twyman	Rimkus Consulting Group	
Michael P. Van Bree	ESI	
Daniel A. Wojnowski	ESI	
Serap Yigit-Elliott	Exponent	

### **NEXT CXL PROGRAM: Dallas, TX**

The next **CXL Certification Program** will be conducted by **EXCEL TRIBOMETERS, LLC** on Thursday, November 13, 2014, in Dallas, TX, at the Residence Inn Dallas Las Colinas, where a block of rooms has been reserved at a special rate of \$145.00. The rate is available for a limited time, as is space in the Program, so book early. Contact the hotel directly for room reservations at 800-331-3131.

Residence Inn Dallas Las Colinas  
950 W Walnut Hill Lane  
Irving, TX 75038

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 English 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 ENGLISH XL VIT OWNERS SHOULD CONSIDER THE CXLT PROGRAM**

Of course, we encourage anyone who owns an English 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 English 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 English 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 English 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.

### **Standardized Test Foot Preparation – The Sander**

**EXCEL TRIBOMETERS, LLC** is now accepting orders for the Test Foot Sander.

To order, call us or order online here:

<http://www.exceltribometers.com/index.php?page=parts-and-supplies>

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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