



Standard Practice for Calculating International Friction Index of a Pavement Surface¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This practice covers the calculation of the International Friction Index (IFI) from a measurement of pavement macrotexture and wet pavement friction. The IFI was developed in the PIARC International Experiment to Compare and Harmonize Texture and Skid Resistance Measurements. The index allows for the harmonizing of friction measurements with different equipment to a common calibrated index. This practice provides for harmonization of friction reporting for devices that use a smooth tread test tire.

1.2 The IFI consists of two parameters that report the calibrated wet friction at 60 km/h (F60) and the speed constant of wet pavement friction (S_p).

1.3 The mean profile depth (MPD) has been shown to be useful in predicting the speed constant (gradient) of wet pavement friction.²

1.4 A linear transformation of the estimated friction at 60 km/h provides the calibrated F60 value. The estimated friction at 60 km/h is obtained by using the speed constant to calculate the estimated friction at 60 km/h from a measurement made at any speed.

1.5 The values stated in SI (metric) units are to be regarded as standard. The inch–pound equivalents are rationalized, rather than exact mathematical conversions.

1.6 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of Committee E17 on Vehicle - Pavement Systems and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E17.21 on Field Methods for Measuring Tire Pavement Friction.

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² Wambold, J. C., Antle, C. E., Henry, J. J., and Rado, Z, International PIARC Experiment to Compare and Harmonize Texture and Skid Resistance Measurements, Final report, *Permanent International Association of Road Congresses* (PIARC), Paris 1995.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:³

E867 Terminology Relating to Vehicle-Pavement Systems
E1911 Test Method for Measuring Paved Surface Frictional Properties Using the Dynamic Friction Tester

E1845 Practice for Calculating Pavement Macrotexture Mean Profile Depth

2.2 ISO Standard:

DIS 13473-1 Acoustics – Characterization of Pavement Texture using Surface Profiles – Part 1: Determination of Mean Profile Depth⁴

3. Terminology

3.1 Terminology used in this standard conforms to the definitions included in Terminology E867.

4. Summary of Practice

4.1 This practice uses measured data of the pavement surface on: (1) macrotexture, and (2) measured friction (FRS) on wet pavement. The practice accommodates these data measured with different equipment at any measuring speed.

4.2 Measurement of the pavement macrotexture is used to estimate the speed constant (S_p).

4.3 The measured friction (FRS) at some slip speed (S) is used with the speed constant of the pavement (S_p) to calculate the friction at 60 km/h (FR60) and a linear regression is used on FR60 to find the calibrated friction value at 60 km/h (F60).

4.4 F60 and S_p are then reported as IFI (F60, S_p).

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This is the practice for calculating the IFI of the pavement. The IFI has proven useful for harmonization of the friction measuring equipment. F60 and S_p have proven to be able to predict the speed dependence of wet pavement-related

³ For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For Annual Book of ASTM Standards volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

⁴ Draft International Standard under the jurisdiction of ISO/TC43/SC1 currently under ballot.

measurements of the various types of friction-measuring equipment.² The two IFI parameters (F60 and S_p) have been found to be reliable predictors of the dependence of wet pavement friction on tire slip and vehicle speed.

5.2 The IFI parameters, F60 and S_p , can be used to calculate the calibrated friction at another-slip speed using a transformation equation.

5.3 The IFI model given below describes the relationship between the values of wet pavement friction FRS measured at a slip speed of S and between the friction values measured by different types of equipment.

5.4 A significance of the IFI Model is that the measurement of friction with a device does not have to be at one of the speeds run in the experiment. FRS can be measured at some S and is always adjusted to FR60. Thus, if a device can not maintain its normal operating speed and must run at some speed higher or lower because of traffic, the model still works well. In that case S is determined by the vehicle speed (V) which can be converted to S by multiplying V by the percent slip for fixed slip equipment or by multiplying V by the sine of the slip angle for side force equipment.

5.5 This practice does not address the problems associated with obtaining a measured friction or measured macrotexture.

6. Mean Profile Depth Determination

6.1 The amount of data required to calculate the mean profile depth (MPD) ideally comprises a continuous profile made along the entire length of the test section.

A minimum requirement shall be 10 evenly spaced profiles (in the direction of travel) of 100 mm (3.9 in.) in length for each 100 m (3900 in.) of the test section. However, for a uniform test section it is sufficient to obtain 16 evenly spaced profiles regardless of test section length. For surfaces having periodic texture (that is, grooved or tined surfaces) the total profile length shall include at least ten periods of the texture.

NOTE 1—When characterizing a long test section with relatively short sample lengths it is important to ensure that the texture is sufficiently homogeneous to provide a representative measure. It is necessary for the user to use sound judgement to determine the minimum number of samples to characterize a non-homogeneous pavement.

NOTE 2—It is preferable to operate the DF Tester at a location where the surface is flat. However, the effect of slope on the results is due to the decrease of the vertical load on the sliders cosine of the slope angle. Therefore, a slope of 20 % will decrease the vertical load by only 2 %. Slopes higher than 30 % are not recommended.

6.2 Resolution:

6.2.1 Vertical resolution shall be at least 0.05 mm (0.002 in.). Vertical range shall be no less than 20 mm (0.75 in.) and vertical non-linearity shall be no greater than 2 % of the range.

NOTE 3—For stationary devices on smooth pavements a lesser range may be used. In this case non-linearity need not exceed the above requirement of 0.4 mm (0.015 in.). The higher range is usually required to allow for a sensor mounted on a moving vehicle.

6.2.2 Maximum spot size for a laser or other electro-optical device shall be no greater than 1 mm (0.04 in.). The stylus in a contact device shall have a tip having a major diameter no greater than 1 mm (0.04 in.).

6.2.3 The sampling interval shall not be more than 1 mm (0.04 in.). Variations of the sampling interval shall not be more than $\pm 10\%$. This requires that the sensor speed over the surface be maintained within $\pm 10\%$ whether the device is stationary or mounted on a moving vehicle.

6.3 The angles between the radiating emitting device surface and between the radiation receiving device and the surface shall be no more than 30°. The angle of the stylus relative to the surface shall be no more than 30°. Larger angles will underestimate deep textures.

6.4 Calibration shall be made using calibration surfaces having a known profile. The vertical accuracy of the calibration surface in relation to its theoretical profile shall be at least 0.05 mm (0.002 in.). The calibration shall be designed to provide a maximum error of 5 % or 0.1 mm (0.004 in) whichever is lower.

NOTE 4—One suitable calibration surface is a surface machined to obtain a triangular profile with a peak-to-peak amplitude of 5–20 mm (0.2–0.75 in). This gives an indication of not only the amplitude, but also the nonlinearity and the texture wavelength scale.

7. Friction Requirements

7.1 Only friction measuring equipment that have been calibrated to measure IFI and that remain within their own calibration limits shall be used.

7.2 The equipment shall have a resolution of at least 0.005 and shall have a standard deviation less than 0.03.

7.3 The equipment shall meet its own standard test method and shall be operated accordingly.

8. Data Processing

8.1 *Outliers*—Invalid readings should be eliminated when their value is higher or lower than the range of that surrounding their location. The invalid value for that location should be replaced or dropped according to the standard practice for that device.

8.2 Transformation equations²:

8.2.1 The speed constant (S_p) in km/h is determined from the Mean Profile Depth (MPD) in mm as follows:

$$S_p = 14.2 + 89.7 \text{ MPD} \quad (1)$$

8.2.2 The next step uses the FRS at a given S to adjust the friction to a common slip speed of 60 km/h. This is accomplished using the speed number predicted by the texture measurement in the previous step and using the following relationship:

$$FR60 = FRS \times EXP [(S - 60)/S_p] \quad (2)$$

where:

FR60 is the adjusted value of friction from a slip speed of S to 60 km/h for the equipment,

FRS is the friction measured by the equipment at slip speed S , and

S is the slip speed of the equipment as described in 8.2.2.

8.2.3 The final step in harmonization is the calibration of the equipment, by regression of the adjusted measurement FR60, with the calibrated Friction Number F60: