

IMPROVED SLIP RESISTANCE TESTS (1/08) ENDORSED BY CERAMIC TILE INSTITUTE of AMERICA Inc.

Culver City, CA (January 24, 2008) - The Ceramic Tile Institute of America (CTIOA) announced today that in an effort to better evaluate all types of hard and resilient floors it is endorsing improved slip-resistance test methods and more effective slip resistance safety standards.

Gray LaFortune, CTIOA Director, said this endorsement encourages the use of the test methods and safety standards for not only ceramic tile, but also natural stone, vinyl and linoleum, terrazzo, concrete, and wood flooring. LaFortune is asking U.S. tile manufacturers to provide the new slip safety information to architects, designers and consumers.

“For years different industries have been trying to evaluate flooring surface safety based on different test methods that do not correlate,” LaFortune said. “The result has been confusion that makes it difficult, if not impossible, for manufacturers to provide reliable data and specifiers to provide realistic specifications.”

CTIOA has endorsed an extensive set of rules for specifying new flooring products for slip resistance and a simpler set of rules for field-testing existing floors for slip resistance. Utilizing a laboratory test method involving human subjects has allowed the classification of new flooring into five categories of varying wet slip resistance for areas where pedestrians use footwear, and three categories for barefoot areas such as locker rooms and swimming pools.

For accurate data in field testing CTIOA recommends either one of two portable instruments: the Tortus Digital Instrument or the **ASTM Pendulum** instrument. For level floors, which get wet or otherwise lubricated in use, the average dynamic coefficient of friction of wet flooring should be 0.50 or higher (0.70 for barefoot areas) when measured using the Tortus instrument. Alternatively, the **British Pendulum** number should be 35 or higher using a hard Four-S rubber test slider (simulating a shoe heel) for footwear areas, and 35 or higher for barefoot areas when tested using a softer TRRL rubber slide.

The Tortus instrument has a digital printout for a permanent record and is more convenient than the pendulum when making numerous measurements. Hundreds of U.S. properties currently have certified tests performed up to four times yearly using this method. The pendulum is more appropriate for areas such as airports and subway stations where some pedestrians are likely to be running. In case of contradicting data between the Tortus and

pendulum methods, CTIOA recommends that the pendulum takes precedence. CTIOA will consider endorsing other test methods that may become validated in the future.

Dr. George Sotter, Chairman of CTIOA's Slip Resistance Committee, said, "These test methods and safety standards will not only reduce accidents, but will bring accountability to slip resistance safety specifications for architects, flooring vendors, and insurance carriers. In addition, these test methods and safety standards will provide protection for property owners and peace of mind to the general public."

The CTIOA Technical Committee is made up of volunteer seasoned ceramic tile and stone industry installers, manufacturers and consultants who donate their time to research topics to develop information to help the ceramic tile and stone industry members to achieve quality installations and to avoid failures. Go to the CTIOA website at www.CTIOA.org, under CTIOA Inc. Technical Field Reports Field Reports, to review and print a copy of these valuable reports.

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