

CONTACT: Gray LaFortune, 310-574-7800 or George Sotter, 949-582-0889

**IMPROVED SLIP RESISTANCE TESTS
ENDORSED BY CERAMIC TILE INSTITUTE of AMERICA Inc.**

In a program to better evaluate all types of hard and resilient floors, the non-profit Ceramic Tile Institute of America announced it is endorsing improved slip-resistance test methods and more effective slip resistance safety standards.

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

“For years different industries have been trying to evaluate flooring 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 and specifiers to provide reliable data.”

CTIOA endorsed an extensive set of rules for specifying new flooring and a simpler set for field-testing existing floors. A laboratory test method involving human subjects classifies 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. For level floors that get wet or otherwise lubricated in use, average dynamic coefficient of friction of wet flooring measured using the Tortus machine should be 0.50 or higher (0.70 for barefoot areas). Alternatively, British Pendulum Number should be 35 or higher using a hard Four-S rubber test slider (simulating a shoe heel) for shod areas, and 35 or higher, but tested using a softer TRRL rubber slider, for barefoot areas.

The Tortus has a digital printout for permanent record and is more convenient than the pendulum when making numerous measurements. Hundreds of U.S. properties already have certified tests done 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 conflict between Tortus and pendulum data, CTIOA recommends that the pendulum have priority. CTIOA will consider endorsing other test methods that may be validated in the future.

Dr. George Sotter, Chair 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, plus protection for property owners, and will give peace of mind both to them and to the general public.”

Ceramic Tile Institute of America, Inc.
12061 Jefferson Boulevard, Culver City, CA 90230
Telephone: 310-574-7800, FAX: 310-821-4655 E-mail: ctioa@earthlink.net Web: www.ctioa.org