



Designation: ~~F1649 – 13~~ F1649 – 20

Standard Test Methods for Evaluating Wet Braking Traction Performance of Passenger Car Tires on Vehicles Equipped with Anti-Lock Braking Systems¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F1649; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

INTRODUCTION

These test methods cover procedures for measuring the wet braking performance of passenger car tires when tested on vehicles equipped with an anti-lock braking system (ABS). ABS operation is accomplished by the use of wheel rotation rate sensors that detect impending wheel lockup and controllable brake pressure regulators; both of these systems are connected to a control microprocessor. When potential lockup is detected for any wheel or pair of wheels, brake pressure is lowered to forestall the lockup and maintain wheel rotation. This process is repeated until the vehicle comes to a stop. The necessary lateral force to maintain vehicle control in an emergency braking situation is only possible when wheel rotation is maintained. Although there may be differences in the braking performance among the commercially available “vehicle-ABS” combinations, tires may be evaluated for their relative or comparative wet braking performance with any one “vehicle-ABS-driver” combination, by the methods as outlined in these test methods.

1. Scope

1.1 These test methods cover the measurement of two types of ABS vehicle behavior that reflect differences in tire wet traction performance when the vehicle is fitted with a series of different tire sets to be evaluated.

1.1.1 The stopping distance from some selected speed at which the brakes are applied.

1.1.2 The lack of control of the vehicle during the braking maneuver. Uncontrollability occurs when the vehicle does not follow the intended trajectory during the period of brake application despite a conscious effort on the part of a skilled driver to maintain trajectory control. Uncontrollability is measured by a series of parameters related to this deviation from the intended trajectory and the motions that the vehicle makes during the stopping maneuver.

1.1.3 Although anti-lock braking systems maintain wheel rotation and allow for a high degree of trajectory control, different sets of tires with variations in construction, tread pattern, and tread compound may influence the degree of trajectory control in addition to stopping distance. Thus vehicle uncontrollability is an important evaluation parameter for tire wet traction performance.

1.2 These test methods specify that the wet braking traction tests be conducted on two specially prepared test courses: (1) a straight-line (rectilinear) “split- μ ” (μ = friction coefficient) test course, with two test lanes deployed along the test course (as

¹ These test methods are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F09 on Tires and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F09.20 on Vehicular Testing. Current edition approved May 1, 2013; Oct. 1, 2020. Published June 2013; October 2020. Originally approved in 1995. Last previous edition approved in 2003 as F1649 – 96 (2003) F1649 – 13, which was withdrawn January 2012 and reinstated in May 2013. DOI: 10.1520/F1649-13; DOI: 10.1520/F1649-20.

traveled by the test vehicle); the two lanes have substantially different friction levels such that the left pair of wheels travels on one surface while the right pair of wheels travels on the other surface; and (2) a curved trajectory constant path radius course with uniform pavement for both wheel lanes.

1.3 As with all traction testing where vehicle uncontrollability is a likely outcome, sufficient precautions shall be taken to protect the driver, the vehicle, and the test site facilities from damage due to vehicle traction breakaway during testing. Standard precautions are roll-bars, secure mounting of all internal instrumentation, driver helmet, and secure seat belt harness, etc.

1.4 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parenthesis are for information only.

1.5 *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~~ safety, health, and ~~health~~ environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.6 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

- E274 Test Method for Skid Resistance of Paved Surfaces Using a Full-Scale Tire
- E303 Test Method for Measuring Surface Frictional Properties Using the British Pendulum Tester
- E501 Specification for Standard Rib Tire for Pavement Skid-Resistance Tests
- E524 Specification for Standard Smooth Tire for Pavement Skid-Resistance Tests
- E965 Test Method for Measuring Pavement Macrotexture Depth Using a Volumetric Technique
- E1136 Specification for P195/75R14 Radial Standard Reference Test Tire
- E1337 Test Method for Determining Longitudinal Peak Braking Coefficient (PBC) of Paved Surfaces Using Standard Reference Test Tire
- F457 Test Method for Speed and Distance Calibration of Fifth Wheel Equipped With Either Analog or Digital Instrumentation
- F538 Terminology Relating to the Characteristics and Performance of Tires
- F1046 Guide for Preparing Artificially Worn Passenger and Light Truck Tires for Testing
- F1572 Test Methods for Tire Performance Testing on Snow and Ice Surfaces
- F1650 Practice for Evaluating Tire Traction Performance Data Under Varying Test Conditions
- F1805 Test Method for Single Wheel Driving Traction in a Straight Line on Snow- and Ice-Covered Surfaces
- F1806 Practice for Tire Testing Operations—Basic Concepts and Terminology for Reference Tire Use
- F2493 Specification for P225/60R16 97S Radial Standard Reference Test Tire

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *anti-lock braking system (ABS), n*—a collection of sensing and control hardware installed on a vehicle to prevent wheel lockup during brake application. **F538**

3.1.2 *candidate tire, n*—a test tire that is part of a test program. **F538**

3.1.2.1 Discussion—

The term “candidate object” may be used in the same sense as *candidate tire*.

3.1.3 *candidate tire set, n*—a set of candidate tires. **F538**

3.1.4 *control tire, n*—a reference tire used in a specified manner throughout a test program. **F538**

3.1.4.1 Discussion—

A control tire may be of either type and typical tire use is the reference (control) tire in Practice **F1650** that provides algorithms for correcting (adjusting) test data for bias trend variations (see Practice **F1650** and **Annex A1**).

² 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.

3.1.5 *reference tire, n*—a special tire included in a test program; the test results for this tire have significance as a base value or internal benchmark. **F538**

3.1.6 *spinout, n*—*in tire testing*, a type of uncontrollability defined by a loss of steering control due to rapid or substantial yaw, or both. **F538**

3.1.7 *standard reference test tire, (SRTT), n*—a tire that is used as a control tire or surface monitoring tire (for example, Specification **E1136** and **F2493** tires). **E1136, F1572, F1649, F1650, F1805, F1806, F2493**

3.1.7.1 *Discussion*—
This is a Type 1 reference tire.

3.1.8 *stopping distance, n*—the path distance (rectilinear or curved) needed to bring a vehicle to a stop from some selected initial brake application speed. **F538**

3.1.9 *surface monitoring tire, n*—a reference tire used to evaluate changes in a test surface over a selected time period. **F538**

3.1.10 *test (or testing), n*—a procedure performed on an object (or set of nominally identical objects) using specified equipment that produces data unique to the object (or set). **F538**

3.1.10.1 *Discussion*—
Test data are used to evaluate or model selected properties or characteristics of the object (or set of objects). The scope of testing depends on the decisions to be made for any program, and sampling and replication plans (see definitions below) need to be specified for a complete program description.

3.1.10.2 *split- μ test*—a wet traction or stopping distance test conducted on a test course with substantially different wet friction levels for the left and right tire test lanes. **F538**

3.1.10.3 *test run*—a single pass of a loaded tire over a given test surface. **F538**

3.1.10.4 *traction test*—*in tire testing*, a series of n test runs at a selected operational condition; a traction test is characterized by an average value for the measured performance parameter. **F538**

3.1.11 *test tire, n*—a tire used in a test. **F538**

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/9162bbef-48ff-445a-9ee9-066b60b88c58/astm-f1649-20>

3.1.12 *test tire set, n*—one or more test tires as required by the test equipment or procedure, to perform a test, thereby producing a single test result. **F538**

3.1.12.1 *Discussion*—
The four nominally identical tires required for vehicle stopping distance testing constitute a test tire set. In the discussion below where the test tire is mentioned, it is assumed that test tire set may be substituted for test tire, if a test tire set is required for the testing.

3.1.13 *trajectory, n*—the rectilinear or curvilinear path of a vehicle during a stopping maneuver; it is defined by the center of gravity and the transient angular orientation of the vehicle. **F538**

3.1.13.1 *intended trajectory*—the intended or ideal path (rectilinear or curvilinear) to bring a vehicle to a stop, that is, under controlled angular orientation. **F538**

3.1.13.2 *orthogonal trajectory deviation*—the perpendicular deviation or distance from the center of the vehicle to the TGL at the end of a stopping test. **F538**

3.1.13.3 *trajectory guide line (TGL)*—the centerline marked on the test course pavement that constitutes the intended trajectory; it is used by the driver to guide or steer the vehicle on its intended path. **F538**

3.1.14 *uncontrollability, n*—any deviation of the vehicle from the intended trajectory (TGL) during or at the end of a test, or both. **F538**

3.1.14.1 *plowing*—*in tire testing*, a type of uncontrollability defined by a loss of steering control with no substantial vehicle yaw; the vehicle moves on a trajectory that is dictated by vehicle dynamics as determined by velocity, mass, and the available traction at each tire. **F538**

3.1.15 *yaw, n*—*in a vehicle*, the angular motion of a vehicle about its vertical axis through the center of gravity. **F538**

3.1.15.1 *yaw velocity*—the magnitude of the yaw (rotation or angular displacement); it may be measured by fore and aft, vehicle vs. pavement, velocity sensors. **F538**

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 *Methods of Measurement*—These test methods are divided into two methods:

4.1.1 *Method A*—Rectilinear Trajectory Braking, and

4.1.2 *Method B*—Curvilinear Trajectory Braking.

4.1.3 With each method, one of three procedures (Procedure 1, 2, or 3) that vary in measurement sophistication may be used to evaluate stopping distance and vehicle uncontrollability.

4.1.4 Procedure 1 is the simplest, with manually recorded stopping distance and trajectory deviation measurements. Procedure 2 uses computer data acquisition and non-pavement-contact sensors to measure speed, stopping distance, and yaw velocity. Procedure 3 is the most comprehensive; it includes all the measurement capabilities of Procedure 2 in addition to the recording of steering wheel angle throughout the stopping maneuver. The measurement procedures for the performance parameters are more fully described in Section 11.

4.2 *Method A—Rectilinear Trajectory Braking*—This mode of braking traction testing is conducted by bringing the vehicle to a stop in an intended rectilinear trajectory or straight line motion, on a split- μ test course. The test may be conducted at a series of initial brake application speeds.

4.3 *Method B—Curvilinear Trajectory Braking*—This mode of braking traction testing is conducted by bringing the vehicle to a stop on a curvilinear trajectory (curved path) on a uniform test surface pavement. The test may be conducted at a series of initial brake application speeds.

NOTE 1—Vehicle uncontrollability may be experienced more abruptly and with greater frequency with Method B procedures. Therefore, when using Method B, precautions should be exercised to avoid any possible danger during testing. Testing shall begin with the lowest test velocities selected for any program and as higher velocities are approached, sufficient care shall be taken to avoid any danger to the driver, the vehicle, and any on-site facilities during traction breakaway conditions.

NOTE 2—Test speeds lower than 10 km/h are not recommended due to instrumentation insensitivity at this low speed.

4.4 These test methods contain four annexes and one appendix that give important information to assist in the meaningful evaluation of tire wet traction performance.

4.4.1 *Annex A1*—Interpretation of Results and Tire Design Feature Evaluation,

4.4.2 *Annex A2*—Techniques for Water Application and Control,

4.4.3 *Annex A3*—Selecting Path Radius and Test Speed for Method B Testing,

4.4.4 *Annex A4*—Measuring Orthogonal Trajectory Deviation (Procedure 1), and

4.4.5 *Appendix X1*—List of Instrumentation Suppliers.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Braking traction is an important factor in vehicle control especially on wet pavements. These test methods permit an evaluation of tires for their relative or comparative performance on an ABS-equipped vehicle. See *Annex A1* for background information for interpretation of results and meaningful evaluation of tire design features for their influence on wet traction performance.

5.2 Although stopping distance is important for vehicle control, the ability to steer the vehicle on a selected trajectory is equally

or, in some instances, more important. The wet traction capability of tires influences both of these measured parameters since the tires are the link between the ABS and the pavement and provide the traction or tire adhesion level that permits the ABS to function as intended.

5.3 The absolute values of the parameters obtained with these test methods are highly dependent upon the characteristics of the vehicle, the design features of the ABS, the selected test pavement(s), and the environmental and test conditions (for example, ambient temperature, water depths, test speeds) at the test course. A change in any of these factors may change the absolute parameter values and may also change the relative rating of tires so tested.

5.4 These test methods are suitable for research and development purposes where tire sets are compared during a brief testing time period. They may not be suitable for regulatory or specification acceptance purposes because the values obtained may not necessarily agree or correlate, either in rank order or absolute value, with those obtained under other conditions (for example, different locations or different seasonal time periods on the same test course).

6. Test Vehicle

6.1 *Test Vehicle*—Any commercially available passenger vehicle equipped with an ABS may be used for the testing. However, it is important that the same vehicle (same model year, same version of ABS) be used for all tests in any testing program. Different vehicles may give different tire wet traction performance because of their varying handling, suspension, and ABS design parameters.

6.1.1 During testing with any selected vehicle, the vehicle test mass (driver, fuel, and instrumentation load) shall be maintained to a tolerance of $\pm 2\%$.

6.1.2 All tests in any program of tire comparisons shall be conducted with the same driver and in the shortest time period possible for any selected test program.

6.2 *Precautions in ABS Vehicle Use*—As with any complex test system, certain precautions shall be exercised in any testing program. ABS operation efficiency as a function of brake pad “break-in,” pad operating temperature or fade, or both, pad drag, or any other ABS factor (all of which can change with time and use) should not be allowed to influence tire testing outcome. If there is any doubt about the influence of the above or any other ABS operating efficiency factor, a series of control tire stopping tests on a separate dry surface is recommended to quantify the influence of the suspected ABS operating factors. Follow the procedures as set forth in Practice F1650 for evaluating any significant time or other trend in ABS operation or efficiency, or both.

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/9162bbef-48ff-445a-9ee9-066b60b88c58/astm-f1649-20>

7. Test Instrumentation Requirements

7.1 The requirements for test instrumentation are given in terms of test instrument specifications rather than citing specific instruments that perform adequately. As new instrument design improves capability, the specifications can be revised. This avoids instrumentation obsolescence in these test methods. Appendix X1 provides a list of instrument suppliers that may be capable of meeting the specifications as set forth in these test methods.

7.2 Procedure 1—Instrumentation:

7.2.1 *Stopping Distance-Speed Measurement*—Equip the test vehicle with a system that provides the following capabilities.

7.2.1.1 A digital speed display for the driver, reading to ± 1 km/h (0.6 mph).

7.2.1.2 A “test initiation system” that provides a signal received from the vehicle brake pedal movement or other suitable brake system component, to accurately indicate the start of the brake actuation process.

7.2.1.3 A distance measuring system that measures the distance along the vehicle or trajectory path from either the point of brake application or a well established test initiation velocity obtained from the test initiation system, to the point where the vehicle comes to a stop. This system shall have a readout in units of distance traversed (~~metres,~~meters, feet) and shall have an accuracy of ± 0.1 m (± 0.3 ft) in a typical stopping distance test.

7.2.2 *Orthogonal Trajectory Deviation*—Use a distance measuring system that can measure the perpendicular distance from the intended trajectory line (TGL) to the center of the vehicle in its final rest position after a test. The center of the vehicle is defined

as the midpoint of the vehicle length and width dimension. The system shall have an accuracy of ± 0.1 m (± 0.3 ft). **Annex A4** provides a recommended procedure for this measurement for both Methods A and B.

7.3 Procedure 2—Instrumentation:

7.3.1 *Data Acquisition and Recording System*—Provide a data acquisition system that has the necessary signal conditioning (A to D converter, etc.) to provide input to a digital computer to record and store the required test data. The data acquisition system shall provide recorded data at the rate of at least 100 data points per second per channel.

7.3.1.1 The data recording system shall have sufficient processing speed and data storage capability for operation at the data acquisition rate as specified in 7.3.1. Data processing (averaging, etc.) after a test run may be conducted by way of typical computer mathematical algorithms.

7.3.1.2 The following data channels (signals) shall be recorded during a test run: vehicle speed, km/h (mph); vehicle yaw (velocity), m/s (ft/s); and distance traveled after point of test initiation (or brake application), m (ft).

7.3.2 *Stopping Distance—Speed Measurement*—Equip the test vehicle with a non-pavement-contact sensor that provides the same specifications for vehicle speed (velocity) and stopping distance as defined in 7.2.1. Record the output from this sensor in the same way using a “brake actuation or other test initiation system” as described for Procedure 1 in 7.2.1.2.

7.3.3 *Trajectory Yaw Deviation*—The deviation from intended trajectory is assessed by the special processing of the yaw (velocity) of the vehicle. This velocity is obtained from a non-pavement-contact sensor or sensor system that provides a signal directly proportional to this velocity. For any test, the signal from this sensor shall be recorded from the point of brake application or other point of test initiation until the vehicle comes to rest. The accuracy of this velocity measurement shall be ± 2 % or better.

7.4 Procedure 3—Instrumentation:

7.4.1 The instrumentation for stopping distance-speed measurement shall be as specified in 7.2.1, and the instrumentation for trajectory deviation shall be as specified in 7.3.3.

7.4.2 *Steering Wheel Rotation*—Equip the steering wheel of the test vehicle with a transducer that records the rotation of the wheel as the driver attempts to maintain vehicle control during the stopping maneuver. Record left and right rotations as specified in 7.3, as + and – values (signals), and the accuracy of the rotation recording shall be $\pm 2^\circ$ or better.

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/9162bbef-48ff-445a-9ee9-066b60b88c58/astm-f1649-20>

7.5 *Calibration of Instrumentation*—Calibrate the speed and distance measuring instrumentation by appropriate techniques in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions. Make special sensor calibration procedures by appropriate techniques as specified by the manufacturer. The calibration procedure for “fifth-wheels” shall be as a minimum, in accordance with Test Method **F457**.

8. Preparation of Test Pavement(s)

8.1 Pavement Selection and Course Layout:

8.1.1 *Method A—Straight Line Testing*—Lay out the test pavement (both lanes, see 8.2) with sufficient length to accommodate the stopping distance produced by the highest initial speeds and the poorest performing tires in any planned testing program. The length needed at any speed depends on the tires being tested, the water depths on the surface, and the friction levels of both the left and right sections (lanes) of the pavement. Allow sufficient area for vehicle recovery (spinout, plowing). Lay out the two lane test course so that tests may be conducted in either direction.

8.1.2 *Method B—Curvilinear Path Testing*—The path radius for a Method B test course must be selected. For any tire set and pavement, the cornering force required to negotiate a curved path varies as the second power of the speed and inversely with the radius of the curve. **Annex A3** provides recommendations for selecting the path radius and other Method B test details.

8.1.2.1 *Configuration of Curved Test Course*—Three options are available for the configuration of the curved course: (1) full-circle, (2) half-circle, or (3) quarter-circle. With any of these options an approach lane may be used to enter the test course. The selection of one of the three options should be made on the basis of the selected path radius and the anticipated distance needed to bring the vehicle to a stop for the selected maximum speeds. For any configuration, the available stopping distance is a function of the path radius. **Annex A3** provides some information for selecting initial braking actuation test speeds.

8.2 “Split- μ ” Surface Layout:

8.2.1 There are two general approaches for this layout: (1) selection of different paving aggregate-binder combinations (low micro-macro texture vs. high micro-macro texture) in the initial construction of the test lanes of a wet traction test facility, or (2) the selection of a large area of high traction pavement and the treatment of a 3 to 4 m (9(10 to \pm 213 ft) wide lane of this pavement to reduce the traction level. This treatment may consist of an epoxy paint or similar durable surface coating treatment to produce a modified surface with low friction level (low microtexture). Either of these approaches may be used.

8.2.2 With either Method A or B, the course layout should provide for a lateral or cross-slope of 1 to 2 % such that there is a lateral flow of water across the test lanes. The recommended direction of flow is from high to low friction level on the test surfaces if two lanes are used. All individual test surfaces (either lane) shall be of uniform composition, free of large cracks and foreign material or debris.

8.3 Magnitude of “Split- μ ” Pavement Friction (Traction) Level:

8.3.1 The average friction level for both of the pavements as well as the differential friction level (high vs. low friction test lanes) are important test course factors.

8.3.2 The difference in friction coefficient between the high and the low test lanes expressed as a ratio [μ (hi)/ μ (lo)] shall be 2.0 or greater. Recommended combinations are 0.50 versus 0.20 or 0.45 versus 0.15. The absolute value of the traction or friction coefficients will be a function of the measurement techniques as described in 8.3.2.1. If both Methods A and B are to be used in any test program, use the same friction measurement technique (same standard tire or slider) for both pavements on both test courses.

8.3.2.1 *Method A: Lane Friction Evaluation*—Friction measurements in both lanes may be conducted by using braking trailer tests in accordance with Test Method E274 for slide coefficient or Test Method E1337 for the more definitive peak coefficient value, with a standard test speed and standard test tire such as specified in Specifications E501, E524, or E1136, or in accordance with Test Method E303, the portable British Pendulum Tester, using a standard slider. Conduct sufficient braking trailer test runs (four to six) on each individual surface to obtain a well documented average value. If Test Method E303 is used, assess the friction level as the average of the measured values at ten or more marked and equally spaced locations along the wheel paths of each of the surfaces used for the testing.

8.3.2.2 *Method B: Friction Evaluation*—Friction evaluation for the pavement used for curvilinear path testing by braking trailer testing may not be feasible. If trailer testing cannot be conducted, use the technique in Test Method E303 as described in 8.3.2.1. At least one common friction evaluation method should be used for both Methods A and B testing.

8.4 Trajectory Guide Line:

8.4.1 For either Method A or Method B, a TGL shall be part of the test course layout. This shall be a highly visible (white or yellow) 10 to 12 cm (4 to 5 in) wide guide line located on the longitudinal juncture between the low and high friction level test lanes or in the center of the curved test course pavement.

8.5 Application of Water to the Pavement:

8.5.1 Continuously apply water to the pavement with a system of sprinklers that uniformly applies water to the course. Annex A2 outlines techniques for adjusting and controlling the water depth on the test course.

8.6 Conditioning the Pavement:

8.6.1 The microtexture of test pavements is subject to change due to weathering action and actual tire testing (see 12.1). Since wet traction should be evaluated on pavements of constant microtexture, such variations can cause problems in evaluation. To reduce or, if possible, avoid this complication, one or both of the following actions are recommended.

8.6.1.1 Condition the pavement by conducting 20 (or more) test runs at some selected speed to polish or condition the surface, using tires not involved in the test program. The pavement friction evaluation techniques described in 8.3 may be used for “before” and “after” conditioning testing.