



Designation: F 1240 – 89 (Reapproved 1995)^{ε1}

Standard Guide for Categorizing Results of Footwear Slip Resistant Measurements on Walkway Surfaces with an Interface of Various Foreign Substances¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F 1240; 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.

^{ε1} NOTE—Editorial corrections were made throughout in August 1998.

1. Scope

1.1 This guide is intended primarily to assist in the selection of work footwear where the presence of foreign materials may produce the danger of a slip or a fall.

1.2 Also, this guide may be useful in the selection of footwear for certain surfaces where slip resistance is of specific interest.

1.3 *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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

F 802 Guide for Selection of Certain Walkway Surfaces When Considering Footwear Traction²

3. Summary of Guide

3.1 Foreign materials on a walkway surface often cause slip and fall accidents. Although the foreign material should be removed, it is not always easy to remove the material continuously in a work environment where the very work operation is the cause of the presence of foreign material being on the walkway surface. In some cases, footwear bottoms are made of materials that are superior to others for purposes of slip resistance when specific foreign substances interface between the shoe bottom and the walkway surface.

3.2 This guide sets forth a format for categorizing the relative degree of slip resistance that can be expected when footwear with certain bottom materials is interfaced with a walkway surface by specific foreign materials.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This guide is intended to assist footwear manufacturers in the selection of work footwear with specific bottoms for

certain work environments where the presence of specific foreign materials often cause slip and fall accidents. The guide is also intended to assist employers or employees and others in selecting work footwear appropriate for their work environment.

4.2 When the conditions are such that foreign materials can come between shoe bottoms and a walkway surface in a work environment, when constant cleaning is unfeasible, and when the walkway surface material cannot be modified to control the danger of a slip or a fall, efforts should be made to identify and use footwear with slip resistant qualities that will reduce the hazard potential in this environment.

4.3 This type of slip hazard is often found in manufacturing and maintenance processes and service industries where foreign materials are frequently present on walkway surfaces. Examples include food preparation and processing areas, rendering operations, transportation, and cargo handling activities.

5. Procedure

5.1 The presence of foreign materials on walkway surfaces often causes people to slip. Most foreign materials, if present on a walkway, will lower slip resistance for most footwear. A foreign material in contact with a shoe and a walkway presents two additional surfaces; the top of the foreign material mating with the bottom of the shoe sole, and the bottom of foreign material mating with the walkway surface. The ideal approach to reduce slipping on walkways is to eliminate the two additional surfaces caused by the presence of the foreign material.

NOTE 1—Guide F 802 discusses the elimination of foreign substances on walkway surfaces.

5.2 Along with a program to eliminate foreign substances from walkway surfaces in a working environment, it may be necessary to have workers wear footwear with specific bottom material that has slip resistant qualities that reduce the chances of slipping with a particular foreign substance present on the walkway surface. Work footwear suppliers can be a source of information for assisting with selection of appropriate bottom material that is effective with specific work environments.

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F13 on Safety and Traction for Footwear and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F13.50 on Traction.

Current edition approved July 28, 1989. Published September 1989.

² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 15.07.