
**Road vehicles — Passenger-car and
trailer combinations — Lateral stability
test**

*Véhicules routiers — Ensembles voiture particulière et remorque —
Essai de stabilité latérale*

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Published in Switzerland

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 9815 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 22, *Road vehicles*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Vehicle dynamics and road-holding ability*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 9815:1992), which has been technically revised in respect of general test conditions removed and replaced by appropriate references to those of ISO 15037-1, and primarily by the addition of test-track gradient and longitudinal acceleration requirements and provisions on the adjustment of load-distributing coupling mechanisms.

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Introduction

The dynamic behaviour of a passenger-car, or light-truck, and trailer combination is a most important part of active vehicle safety. Any given combination of towing vehicle and trailer, together with the driver and the prevailing roadway environment, forms a unique closed-loop system. The task of evaluating dynamic behaviour is therefore very difficult because of the significant interaction of the driver–towing-vehicle–trailer combination and road elements, each of which is in itself complex. A complete and accurate description of the behaviour of towing-vehicle–trailer combinations must necessarily involve information obtained from a number of tests of different types.

Because they quantify only one small part of the whole handling field, the results of this test can only be considered significant for a correspondingly small part of the overall handling behaviour of towing-vehicle–trailer combinations.

In addition the results obtained from this test will apply only for combinations of the same type of towing vehicle drawing the same type of trailer under the same loading and operating conditions. The results will not describe the behaviour of either towing vehicle or trailer separately.

Moreover, insufficient knowledge is available concerning the relationship between overall vehicle dynamic properties and accident avoidance. A large amount of work is necessary to acquire sufficient and reliable data on the correlation between accident avoidance and vehicle dynamic properties in general, and the results of this test in particular. Therefore, it is not possible to use this procedure and its test results for regulatory purposes.

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Road vehicles — Passenger-car and trailer combinations — Lateral stability test

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies a lateral stability test for passenger-car and trailer combinations. It is applicable to passenger cars in accordance with ISO 3833, and also to light-trucks, and their trailer combinations.

The lateral stability test determines the damping characteristic of the yaw oscillation of such towing-vehicle-trailer combinations excited by a defined steering impulse. The combination is initially driven in a steady-state, straight-ahead driving condition. Oscillation of the vehicle is then initiated by the application of a single impulse of steering, followed by a period in which steering is held fixed and the oscillation of the combination is allowed to damp out. Testing is conducted at several constant speeds. Where non-periodic instability is of interest, a steady-state circular test is specified.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 1176, *Road vehicles — Masses — Vocabulary and codes*

ISO 2416, *Passenger cars — Mass distribution*

ISO 3833, *Road vehicles — Types — Terms and definitions*

ISO 4138:1996, *Passenger cars — Steady-state circular driving behaviour — Open-loop test procedure*

ISO 8855, *Road vehicles — Vehicle dynamics and road-holding ability — Vocabulary*

ISO 15037-1:1998, *Road vehicles — Vehicle dynamics test methods — Part 1: General conditions for passenger cars*

3 Terms, definitions and symbols

For the purposes of this document, the terms, definitions and symbols given in ISO 3833, ISO 8855 and the following apply.

NOTE The letters “C” and “T” are used as subscripts to distinguish between variables associated with the towing vehicle (car or light truck) and the trailer, respectively. For example, the longitudinal axis of the intermediate axis system of the towing vehicle is designated as X_C , and the lateral acceleration of the trailer is designated as a_{YT} .

3.1

yaw articulation angle

$\Delta\psi$

angle of the X_C axis relative to the X_T axis, i.e. angle between the X axes of each of the two units, with the polarity determined by the rotation of the towing vehicle relative to the trailer

3.2 mean gradient (of the test track)

\bar{G}
change in elevation of the track surface between two points along the path of the vehicle divided by the horizontal distance between those points, where the two points are those that define, as closely as is practicable, that segment of the track travelled by the test vehicle between the times t_2 and $t_{\Delta\psi m}$, respectively

For t_2 and $t_{\Delta\psi m}$, see 6.2.2 and 7.2.3, respectively.

NOTE This gradient is dimensionless and is positive for a test vehicle travelling uphill and negative for a test vehicle travelling downhill.

4 Measurement variables

When performing this test procedure, the following shall be measured:

- steering-wheel angle, δ_H ,
- longitudinal velocity of the towing vehicle, v_X ,
- lateral acceleration of the trailer, a_{YT} ,
- yaw articulation angle between towing vehicle and trailer, $\Delta\psi$.

The following should be measured:

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- yaw velocity of the towing vehicle, $\frac{d\psi_C}{dt}$; [ISO 9815:2003](https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/6628a5d5-fb67-4364-adde-c0f8782a634f/iso-9815-2003)
- yaw velocity of the trailer, $\frac{d\psi_T}{dt}$.

NOTE These variables are not intended to comprise a complete list.

5 General conditions

5.1 Compliance

The general conditions of the test shall be in accordance with ISO 15037-1, with the additions and exceptions given in the present clause.

5.2 Measuring equipment

The measurement variables given in Clause 4 shall be monitored using appropriate transducers. The requirements of ISO 15037-1 regarding measurement and recording equipment shall be applied to both towing vehicle and trailer. Typical operating ranges and recommended maximum errors for variables not considered by ISO 15037-1 are given in Table 1.

A steering-wheel stop or marking may be used. The use of a steering machine is optional.

**Table 1 — Variables, operating ranges and recommended maximum errors —
Addendum to Table 1 of ISO 15037-1:1998**

Variable	Typical operating range	Recommended maximum error of combined transducer/recorder system
Articulation angle	$\pm 20^\circ$	$\pm 0,2^\circ$

5.3 Test track

In addition to the test track requirements of ISO 15037-1, the mean gradient of the test track along the path of the vehicle, \bar{G} , shall be within the range $\pm 0,01$. \bar{G} shall be recorded for each test run. See 6.2.1 and 7.2.1 for related requirements. In addition, the test surface shall be maintained over a track with a minimum width of 8 m. An increased run-off area should be provided in addition to the specified test surface.

Inasmuch as yaw damping of articulated vehicles is known to be sensitive to the longitudinal slope of the test track, the test should be conducted in both directions whenever \bar{G} approaches the allowed maximum.

5.4 Wind velocity

Wind velocity shall be accordance with ISO 15037-1 and, in addition, should not exceed 2,5 m/s.

5.5 Loading conditions

5.5.1 Towing vehicle

The total mass of the towing vehicle shall consist of the complete vehicle kerb mass (ISO 1176, code ISO-M06) plus driver and instrumentation (combined mass should not exceed 150 kg). The location of the instrumentation shall be such as to minimize its effect on the yaw moment of inertia of the towing vehicle.

The tests should be repeated at a maximum loading condition of the towing vehicle or at other loading conditions of interest or all these. For the maximum loading condition, the total mass of a fully laden vehicle shall consist of the complete vehicle kerb mass plus 68 kg for each seat in the passenger compartment, with the static load at the coupling ball and the remaining maximum luggage mass equally distributed over the luggage compartment in accordance with ISO 2416. Loading of the passenger compartment shall be such that the actual wheel loads are equal to those obtained by loading each seat with 68 kg in accordance with ISO 2416. The mass of instrumentation shall be included in the vehicle mass. Care shall be taken to ensure that the moments of inertia are representative of the loading conditions of the vehicle in normal use.

The total mass of the fully laden towing vehicle, including the equivalent mass of the static load at the coupling ball, shall not exceed the maximum design total mass (ISO 1176, code ISO-M07), nor shall the front and rear axle loads exceed their respective maximum design values with the load applied at the coupling ball. If a load-distributing coupling is used, these axle loads should be assessed after engagement of the load-distributing mechanisms (see 5.5.4) except where this is counter to the recommendations of the manufacturer of the towing vehicle.

5.5.2 Trailer

The trailer shall be loaded to its maximum authorized total mass (ISO 1176, code ISO-M08) or until the maximum design mass of vehicle combination (ISO 1176, code ISO-M18) is reached, whichever is the lesser of the two masses. If the type of trailer allows various load distributions, the load shall be distributed in such a way as to produce realistic and representative values of the yaw moment of inertia, centre-of-gravity height and the static load at the coupling ball (see 5.5.3).

Optionally, tests may also be carried out with any other towed mass of interest.

The mass, centre-of-gravity position and yaw moment of inertia of the trailer as tested shall be measured and noted in the general data (see Annex A). Alternatively, a description of the loading condition, adequate to reproduce these properties with reasonable accuracy, shall be provided.

5.5.3 Static load on the coupling ball

Tests shall be carried out with the maximum permissible static load on the coupling ball as determined by the maximum coupling load allowable for the towing vehicle, the trailer or the coupling itself, whichever is the smallest. However, the static load on the coupling ball must be further reduced if it causes the load on the rear axle of the towing vehicle to exceed the maximum design load as specified by the manufacturer of the towing vehicle. Unless it is counter to the recommendations of that manufacturer, the rear-axle load is to be assessed after the engagement of any load-distributing mechanism at the coupling.

The fraction of the weight of the trailer carried as static load on the hitch has an important influence on the yaw damping of the vehicle combination. Typically, damping decreases as static load on the hitch decreases. Therefore, tests should also be carried out with the minimum permissible static load at the coupling ball [1].

5.5.4 Adjustment of load-distributing coupling mechanisms

When trailer mass is large, load-distributing couplings are often used to restore the pitch angle exhibited by the towing vehicle prior to the application of a static load on the coupling. The addition of this moment redistributes some of the coupling static load from the rear tyres to the front tyres of the towing vehicle and the trailer tyres. This increases the articulation-angle damping but reduces the understeer of the towing vehicle with lateral acceleration.

The load-distributing coupling often includes a mechanism for adding articulation-angle damping. The coupling and auxiliary friction devices should be installed and adjusted according to the towing vehicle, trailer and coupling manufacturers' recommendations.

In the absence of manufacturers' recommendations for the use of load-distributing coupling, the following procedure should be followed. Prior to the attachment of the trailer, measure the vertical distance from points on the vehicle body to the ground at the centre lines of the front and rear axles of the towing vehicle, with the vehicle loaded as intended for testing. After attaching the trailer, adjust the coupling moment such that the resulting overall changes in these two vertical distances are the same within 10 mm.

If recommendations for static loading conditions are not available for the load-distributing coupling, static load can be based upon the recommendation of [2], which is that coupling load should be 8,4 % of the weight of the towing vehicle.

NOTE With multi-axle trailers, the force required to support the tongue may increase as the height of the tongue is increased. As a result, proper set-up of the static load on the coupling ball and coupling moment can be an iterative process.

The coupling moment should be recorded for the test configuration. For this, the front and rear axle loads of the towing vehicle should be measured once without the trailer attached (to determine the weight of the towing vehicle) and once with the trailer attached and the load-distributing coupling adjusted. It is critical that the axle loads be measured with the trailer and towing vehicle on a flat surface. If the contact patches of the towing-vehicle and trailer tyres are not in the same plane, the coupling moment will be altered.

The coupling moment can be calculated as follows:

$$M_{yeq} = F_{ZwC}(l_C + e_C) + F_{ZwC}(e_C) - M_{CG}(d_C + e_C)$$

where

M_{yeq} is the moment due to load-distributing coupling;

- F_{ZwfC} is the sum of the loads on the front wheels of the towing vehicle with the trailer attached and load-distributing coupling engaged;
- F_{ZwrC} is the sum of the loads on the rear wheels of the towing vehicle with the trailer attached and load-distributing coupling engaged;
- g is the gravitational constant;
- M_C is the mass of the towing vehicle;
- l_C is the wheelbase of the towing vehicle;
- d_C is the longitudinal distance between the centre of gravity of the towing vehicle and the centreline of the rear axle of the towing vehicle;
- e_C is the rear overhang, the longitudinal distance between the spindle axis of the rear axle and the centre of the coupling ball.

6 Test method

6.1 General

Prior to testing, the vehicle shall be warmed up, and each test run shall be initiated from a steady-state, straight-ahead driving condition, in accordance with ISO 15037-1.

6.2 Test runs

6.2.1 Speed

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The first specified test speed shall be 50 km/h. Thereafter, the specified test speed shall be increased incrementally. At speeds where damping (see 7.2.3) is $\geq 0,15$, the increment shall be ≤ 10 km/h. In speed ranges where damping is less than 0,15, the increment shall be ≤ 5 km/h. The highest specified speed shall be at least 90 % of the calculated zero-damping speed (see 7.3).

Precautions should be taken with combinations expected to have low levels of damping. In such cases, initial exploratory test runs should be made at speeds lower than 50 km/h; when appropriate, the initial specified speed may be less than 50 km/h.

Test speeds shall be maintained in accordance with 6.2.1 of ISO 15037-1:1998 throughout the run (i.e. from t_1 in accordance with ISO 15037-1 to $t_{\Delta ym}$ in accordance with 7.2.3 of the present International Standard). Moreover, during the time period from t_2 (see 6.2.2) to $t_{\Delta ym}$ (see 7.2.3) of each test run, the mean of the longitudinal acceleration shall be between $\pm 0,1$ m/s². See 5.3 and 7.2.1 for related requirements.

6.2.2 Steering impulse

The yaw oscillation of the towing vehicle and trailer combination shall be initiated by an impulse displacement of the steering wheel.

Wherever practical, the amplitude of the steering impulse shall be that required to produce a maximum amplitude of lateral acceleration at the centre of gravity of the trailer of (4 ± 1) m/s². In cases where it is not practical to attain (4 ± 1) m/s², the steering pulse should be that required to produce the maximum lateral acceleration reasonably attainable at the centre of gravity of the trailer. The maximum amplitude of lateral acceleration at the centre of gravity of the trailer that is actually attained shall be recorded in the test report (see Annex B).