
**Passenger car, commercial vehicle,
truck and bus tyres — Methods for
measuring snow grip performance —
Loaded new tyres**

*Pneumatiques pour voitures particulière, véhicules utilitaires,
camions et autobus — Méthodes de mesurage de l'adhérence sur
neige — Pneumatiques neufs en charge*

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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.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#).

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 31, *Tyres, rims and valves*.

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Passenger car, commercial vehicle, truck and bus tyres — Methods for measuring snow grip performance — Loaded new tyres

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies the method for measuring relative snow grip performance index of a candidate tyre compared to a reference, under loaded conditions for new tyres intended to be used on passenger car, commercial vehicle, truck and bus vehicles on a snow packed surface.

The methods developed here are meant to reduce the variability of the performance measurement. The use of the proper reference tyres is necessary to limit the variability of the testing method procedures.

This International Standard applies to all passenger car, commercial vehicle, truck and bus tyres.

2 Normative references

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

ISO 4000-1, *Passenger car tyres and rims (metric series) — Part 1: Tyres*

ISO 4209-1, *Truck and bus tyres and rims (metric series) — Part 1: Tyres*

ASTM F1805, *Standard Test Method for Single Wheel Driving Traction in a Straight Line on Snow- and Ice-Covered Surfaces*

ASTM E1136, *Standard Specification for P195/75R14 Radial Standard Reference Test Tire*

ASTM F2870, *Standard Specification for 315/70R22.5 154/150L Radial Truck Standard Reference Test Tire*

ASTM F2871, *Standard Specification for 245/70R19.5 136/134M Radial Truck Standard Reference Test Tire*

ASTM F2872, *Standard Specification for 225/75R16C 116/114S M+S Radial Light Truck Standard Reference Test Tire*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1

passenger car tyre

tyres conforming to ISO 4000-1

3.2

commercial vehicle tyre

tyres conforming to ISO 4209-1 and identified by a load index in single configuration lower or equal to 121 and a speed symbol higher or equal to “N”

3.3

truck and bus tyre

tyres conforming to ISO 4209-1 and identified by

- a) a load index in single configuration higher or equal to 122, or

b) a load index in single configuration lower or equal to 121 and a speed symbol lower or equal to “M”

3.4

test run

single pass of a loaded tyre over a given test surface

3.5

tyre set

group of two or four same tyres

3.6

candidate tyre

T

test *tyre set* (3.5) that is part of an evaluation program

3.7

reference tyre

R

special test *tyre set* (3.5), also known as a Standard Reference Test Tyre (SRTT), that is used as a benchmark in an evaluation program

Note 1 to entry: In order to minimize their variation, these tyres have carefully controlled design features and for this reason, they are produced, controlled and stored in accordance with the following ASTM (ASTM International) standards:

- ASTM E1136, SRTT P195/75R14;
- ASTM F2870, SRTT 315/70 R 22.5 - 154/150 L;
- ASTM F2871, SRTT 245/70 R 19.5 - 136/134 M;
- ASTM F2872, SRTT 225/75 R 16 C - 116/114 S. [ISO 18106:2016](https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/f721e484-7bde-4808-9bbd-e54c60a62fdc/iso-18106-2016)
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3.8

control tyre

C

tyre set (3.5) that is part of an evaluation program

Note 1 to entry: It is an intermediate set of tyres which is used when the candidate tyre and the reference tyre cannot be directly compared on the same vehicle.

3.9

braking test

series of a specified number of ABS-braking *test runs* (3.4) of the same tyre repeated within a short time frame

3.10

mean fully developed deceleration

mfd

average deceleration calculated on the basis of the measured distance recorded when decelerating a vehicle between two specified speeds

3.11

acceleration test

series of a specified number of traction controlled acceleration *test runs* (3.4) of the same tyre repeated within a short time frame

3.12

acceleration force of a tyre

longitudinal force resulting from acceleration torque application

Note 1 to entry: It is expressed in newtons, N.

3.13**acceleration force coefficient of a tyre****AFC**

ratio of acceleration force to vertical load

3.14**average acceleration****AA**

average acceleration calculated on the basis of the measured distance recorded when accelerating a vehicle between two specified speeds

3.15**Snow Grip Index****SG**

ratio between the performance of the candidate tyre to the performance of the proper standard reference test tyre

3.16**loaded radius**

distance from wheel axis of rotation to supporting surface (ground) at a given load and stated inflation pressure

4 Test methods**4.1 Braking on snow method for passenger car tyres****4.1.1 General**

Snow performance is based on a test method by which the mean fully developed deceleration in a braking test, of a candidate tyre is compared to that of a standard reference test tyre.

The relative performance shall be indicated by a Snow Grip Index (SG).

4.1.2 Test course

The braking tests shall be done on a flat test surface of sufficient length and width, with a maximum 2 % gradient, covered with packed snow.

The snow surface shall be composed of a hard packed snow base at least 3 cm thick and a surface layer of medium packed and prepared snow about 2 cm thick.

The air temperature, measured about one meter above the ground, shall be between $-2\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ and $-15\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$; the snow temperature, measured at a depth of about one centimetre, shall be between $-4\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ and $-15\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$.

It is recommended to avoid direct sunlight, large variations of sunlight or humidity, as well as wind.

The snow compaction index measured according to ASTM F1805 by using a CTI penetrometer shall be between 75 and 85.

The candidate tyre should be tested in the same slope and snow compaction condition as the reference tyre to avoid any advantage or disadvantage for the candidate tyre.

4.1.3 Vehicle

The test shall be conducted with a standard production vehicle in good running order and equipped with ABS.

The vehicle used shall be such that the loads on each wheel are appropriate to the tyres being tested. Several different tyre set can be tested on the same vehicle.

4.1.4 Standard reference test tyre

The proper reference tyre to be used to evaluate passenger car tyre snow grip performance is ASTM E1136, SRTT P195/75R14.

4.1.5 Tyres preparation

Fit the test tyres on rims as per ISO 4000-1 using conventional mounting methods. Ensure proper bead seating by the use of a suitable lubricant. Excessive use of lubricant should be avoided to prevent slipping of the tyre on the wheel rim.

The tyres should be prepared prior to testing to remove spew, compound nodules or flashes resulting from the moulding process. The tyre surface in contact with snow shall be clean before performing a test.

Tyres shall be conditioned at the outdoor ambient temperature at least two hours before their mounting for tests. Tyre pressures shall then be adjusted to the values specified for the test.

In case a vehicle cannot accommodate both the reference and candidate tyres, a third tyre ("control" tyre) may be used as an intermediate. First, test the control tyre against the reference on a suitable vehicle, then test the candidate tyre against the control on the other vehicle.

4.1.6 Tyre load

The vehicle load shall be such that the resulting loads on the tyres are between 60 % and 90 % of the load corresponding to the tyre load index.

4.1.7 Tyre inflation pressure

The cold inflation pressure shall be 240 kPa.

4.1.8 Instrumentation

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The vehicle shall be fitted with calibrated sensors suitable for measurements in winter conditions. There shall be a data acquisition system to store measurements.

The accuracy of measurement sensors and systems shall be such that the relative uncertainty of the measured or computed mean fully developed decelerations is less than 1 %.

4.1.9 Testing order and sequences

For every candidate tyre and the standard reference test tyre, ABS-braking test runs shall be repeated a minimum of six times.

The zones where ABS-braking is fully applied shall not overlap.

When a new set of tyres is tested, the runs are performed after shifting aside the vehicle trajectory in order not to brake on the tracks of the previous tyre.

When it is no longer possible not to overlap full ABS-braking zones, the test course shall be re-groomed.

Order of testing:

- If only one candidate tyre has to be evaluated, the order of testing shall be as follows:

R1 - T - R2

where

R1 is the initial test of the SRTT;

R2 is the repeat test of the SRTT;

T is the test of the candidate tyre to be evaluated.

- A maximum of two candidate tyres (T1 and T2) may be tested before repeating the SRTT test, for example:

R1 - T1 - T2 - R2

Required sequence is as follows:

- six SRTT repetitions, then shift aside to test next tyre on fresh surface;
- six Candidate one repetitions, then shift aside;
- six Candidate two repetitions, then shift aside;
- six SRTT repetitions, then shift aside.

The comparative tests of SRTT and candidate tyres shall be repeated on two different days.

4.1.10 Test procedure

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Drive the vehicle at a speed not lower than 28 km/h.

When the measuring zone has been reached, the vehicle gear is set into neutral, the brake pedal is depressed sharply by a constant force sufficient to cause operation of the ABS on all wheels of the vehicle and to result in stable deceleration of the vehicle and held down until the speed is lower than 8 km/h.

The mean fully developed deceleration between 25 km/h and 10 km/h shall be computed from distance, speed, or deceleration measurements.

The mean fully developed deceleration, mfdd, is given by [Formula \(1\)](#):

$$\text{mfdd} = \left| \frac{S_f^2 - S_i^2}{2D} \right| \quad (1)$$

where

D is the distance covered between S_i and S_f , in m;

S_i is the initial speed, in m/s;

S_f is the final speed, in m/s.

4.1.11 Data evaluation and presentation of results**4.1.11.1 Coefficient of variation**

For each tyre and each braking test, the mean and the standard deviation of the mfdd shall be computed and reported.

The coefficient of variation, CV, of a tyre braking test shall be computed as given in [Formula \(2\)](#):

$$CV(\text{tyre}) = \frac{\text{Std.dev}(\text{tyre})}{\text{Mean}(\text{tyre})} \quad (2)$$

4.1.11.2 SRTT weighted variance

Weighted averages (wa) of two successive tests of the SRTT shall be computed taking into account the number of candidate tyres in between.

If R1 is the mean mfdd in the first test of the reference tyre and R2 is the mean mfdd in the second test of the reference tyre, the following operations are performed, according to [Table 1](#).

Table 1 — Calculation of weighted averages

	If the number of sets of candidate tyres between two successive runs of the reference tyre is:	and the set of candidate tyres to be qualified is:	then “wa” is calculated by applying the following:
1	R1 -T1 - R2	T1	wa = 1/2 (R1 + R2)
2	R1 -T1 - T2 - R2	T1	wa = 2/3 R1 + 1/3 R2
		T2	wa = 1/3 R1 + 2/3 R2

“Ta” (a = 1, 2) is the average of the mean mfdd values for a test of a candidate tyre.

4.1.11.3 Snow Grip Index

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The Snow Grip Index in percent of a candidate tyre shall be computed as given in [Formula \(3\)](#):

$$\text{Snow Grip Index}(\text{candidate}) = \frac{\text{Mean}(\text{candidate})}{\text{wa}(\text{SRTT})} \quad (3)$$

4.1.11.4 Statistical validation

The sets of repeats of measured or computed mfdd for each tyre should be examined for normality, drift, eventual outliers.

The consistency of the means and standard deviations of successive braking tests of SRTT should be examined.

The means of two successive SRTT braking tests shall not differ by more than 5 %.

The coefficient of variation of any braking test shall not be higher than 6 %.

If those conditions are not met, tests shall be performed again after re-grooming the test course.

The SRTT tyres shall be discarded if there is irregular wear or damage or when the performance appears to have been deteriorated.

4.1.12 Snow grip performance comparison between a candidate tyre and a reference tyre using a control tyre

4.1.12.1 General

In the case where the candidate tyres cannot be fitted to the same vehicle as the SRTT, for example, due to tyre size, inability to achieve required loading and so on, comparison shall be made using intermediate tyres, hereinafter referred to as “control tyres”, and two different vehicles.

One vehicle shall be capable of being fitted with the SRTT and the control tyre and the other vehicle shall be capable of being fitted with the control tyre and the candidate tyre.

4.1.12.2 Snow Grip Index calculation in case of a control tyre

The Snow Grip Index of the control tyre relative to the SRTT (SG1) and of the candidate tyre relative to the control tyre (SG2) shall be established using the procedure in 4.1.2 to 4.1.11.4.

The Snow Grip Index of the candidate tyre relative to the SRTT shall be the product of the two resulting snow grip indices that is $SG1 \times SG2$.

4.1.12.3 Boundary conditions

The ambient conditions shall be comparable. All tests shall be completed within the same day.

The same set of control tyres shall be used for comparison with the SRTT and with the candidate tyre and shall be fitted in the same wheel positions.

A control tire set is a group of identical tyres made in the same factory during the same production week.

Control tyres that have been used for testing shall subsequently be stored under the same conditions as required for the SRTT.

The SRTT and control tyres shall be discarded if there is irregular wear or damage or when the performance appears to have been deteriorated.

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4.2 Braking on snow method for commercial vehicle tyres

4.2.1 General

Snow performance is based on a test method by which the mean fully developed deceleration in a braking test of a candidate tyre is compared to that of a standard reference test tyre.

The relative performance shall be indicated by a Snow Grip Index (SG).

4.2.2 Test course

Same requirements as to 4.1.2 apply.

4.2.3 Vehicle

Same requirements as to 4.1.3 apply.

4.2.4 Standard reference test tyre

The proper reference tyre to be used to evaluate commercial vehicle tyre snow grip performance is ASTM F2872, SRTT 225/75R16C.

4.2.5 Tyres preparation

Fit the test tyres on rims as per ISO 4209-1 using conventional mounting methods. Ensure proper bead seating by the use of a suitable lubricant. Excessive use of lubricant should be avoided to prevent slipping of the tyre on the wheel rim.

The tyres should be prepared prior to testing to remove spew, compound nodules or flashes resulting from the moulding process. The tyre surface in contact with snow shall be clean before performing a test.

Tyres shall be conditioned at the outdoor ambient temperature at least two hours before their mounting for tests. Tyre pressures shall then be adjusted to the values specified for the test.