

Introducing SCRIM Friction Testing in the US

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The Acceptance Testing and Demonstration of the Continuous Friction Measurement Equipment (CFME) is a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) project to facilitate the implementation of pavement friction management (PFM) programs to help support the Vision of working “Towards zero deaths and serious injuries on the Nation’s roadways.” Such programs involve the regular monitoring of pavement friction on the highway network and the use of friction and macrotexture thresholds that are linked to key safety performance measures. PFM programs are expected to make a significant contribution to selecting and maintaining the most appropriate (and cost-effective) pavement surfaces to increase highway safety by reducing crashes and their severity. Because continuous friction measurement technology relates better to the interaction of modern traction systems and pavements, it is expected that the findings from this research will lead to substantial economic savings through reduced injuries and deaths. Continuous friction measurements allow better network–level analysis of friction–related crashes. Its granularity provides the ability to detect negative conditions that can then be incorporated into the safety performance models to improve their ability to estimate crash rates to develop proactive, systemic, and cost-effective friction repair treatment plans.