

Road surface properties and high speed friction

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High speed friction generation is an important factor that should be considered by road owners to maintain road user safety. The management of high speed friction on the English motorway and all-purpose trunk road network is based on the specification of surface texture depth. This approach was borne out of work showing that the generation of high speed friction is heavily reliant on the road surface texture depth. It is assumed that the correlation between texture and high speed friction is related to the ability of water to drain away from vehicle tyres through the surface texture. For the majority of surfacing types, there is a good correlation between texture depth and high speed friction. There are, however, some exceptions and some porous asphalt surfacings and small aggregate thin surface course systems do not follow the same texture/friction relationship as the majority of surfacing types. The work undertaken explored the relationship between high speed friction and a range of road surface properties with a view to identifying parameters that allow all surfacing types to be represented by the same relationship.