

Slip Resistance: Essential Differences between Compliance Reports & Test Reports

The onus is increasingly put onto the company responsible for slip resistance testing to be held accountable for non-compliant floor surfaces should an incident occur. As many of our clients are interested in the difference between compliance reporting and 'test' (data-only) reports, we have put together the following brief summary:

Data only Test Reports require the client to be fully conversant with:

1. Appropriate testing methodology i.e. which test should be employed, which sliders should be used, etc.
2. Whether the test surfaces comply with industry-accepted criteria,
3. Australian standards, Handbooks (e.g. HB 197 and HB 198) and building codes, as well as amendments and advisory notes pertaining thereto, and
4. Interpretation of how the test results relate to the minimum classifications required for particular floor locations (one location can be subject to more than one classification depending on the control measures in place);

in accordance with the SRV/SCV/TCV, as well as the nature of the anticipated activity and probability of a range of contamination conditions.

* Kindly note: Revisions to the AS 4663 standard (2013) removed the interpretation of slip resistance test results.

In contrast, a Compliance Report will not only state the SRV/SCV/TCV, but also deliver the assessment outcome (telling the client where they stand) i.e. a determination of compliance that states conclusively whether or not minimal criteria have been met:

1. No additional guesswork required by the client to determine the outcome, and
2. All reports have Engineering Authority.

Engineering Authority, as compared to a technician only, is important in that it allows for:

- a. Interpretation of test results for compliance purposes,
- b. Provision of advice on remediation and recovery procedures,
- c. Expert opinion where the standards or the floor location or condition are not entirely transparent or definitive, and
- d. Development and implementation of specialised test regimes and procedures for cases where the standards can't be followed.

The objective of a Compliance Report is to make an unambiguous, defensible, clear and concise assessment, so that corrective actions and control measures are initiated to reduce risk, as required by your Duty of Care.

In the event of a slip incident, liability may not be eliminated, but if due diligence has been conducted as part of an overall risk assessment in relation to the state of the floor surfaces, the exposure will in most cases be minimised.

We are well known in the legal and insurance industries, for our expertise and experience in a wide variety of cases, including slip, trip and fall incidents, as well as a wide variety of materials and structural assessments. Legal reports and expert witness services are regularly provided for litigation and court proceedings.