The International Ergonomics Association Slips, Trips and Falls Technical Committee is holding an in-person Workshop "**Accelerating the Use of Appropriate Accelerated Wear Conditioning (AWC) Protocols**" at the Van der Valk Hotel in Maastricht, Netherlands, on Tuesday, 1 July 2025.

There will be a combination of state-of-the-art presentations, equipment demonstrations and roundtable discussions. This meeting coincides with new circumstances and imminent activities that will inevitably disrupt slip resistance specification practices. These include:

- Australia commencing revision of the AS 4586 and AS 4663 standards to make small but significant improvements to the CEN 16165 pendulum test method; while also enabling the use of a range of product appropriate accelerated wear conditioning (AWC) protocols, including the Strautins protocol.
- CEN/TC 178 WG 4 initiating a round robin on stone, ceramic and concrete samples to evaluate potential changes to the EN/TS 12633 flat bed polishing AWC protocol.
- Safe Environments has recently produced further proficiency testing reports for wet surface friction testing, together with an associated AWC study of the Strautins protocol, yielding several interesting outcomes and some significant recommendations.
- The Rowan Engineering/ Trinity College Dublin research consortium has been examining modifications to the Strautins protocol as an element of its ongoing study of the in situ slip resistance degradation of several paving materials.
- FGK has long studied the durability and cleanability of floor surfaces using a variety of AWC protocols and surface topography analytical techniques. They will demonstrate the use of a new mobile profilometer to assess floor surfaces while on site, establishing a starting point for the simulation of surface wear.
- Munro's newly developed AWT instrument induces less intensive wear and with a new cleaning head introduces some new AWC possibilities including the study of tribocorrosion. Acid rain and deicing salts will influence the slip resistance loss of some types of pavers; aggressive cleaning products and processes will influence the slip resistance loss of other materials.

As no single AWC protocol is suitable for all products and situations, appropriate protocol and product selections are critical to safety and lifetime performance costs. Since ex-factory indications of slip resistance can be quite illusory, this meeting will provide the opportunity to reflect on several questions, for instance:

- Was there sufficient evidence to support some past decisions?
- Do some past decisions reflect little more than a desire to reinforce existing prejudices?
- What should we be determining in order to be able to make improved decisions?
- Might we obtain more relevant results by modifying some practices?
- Rather than "which AWC produces the best correlation with the data for …", "when should we use AWC protocols to screen out unsuitable products" and "when can we use AWC protocols for predictive purposes to hopefully specify the most suitable product"?
- What are the risks and ethical considerations of NOT adopting new practices?
- How can manufacturers, specifiers, building owners and operators collaborate to provide safer pedestrian environments?

We anticipate the workshop will trigger some collaborations, whereby the participants will become better resourced and more capable of achieving their projects and sooner.

If you would like to participate, please contact Richard Bowman. Participants will receive some background material prior to the meeting. Cost: € 80 including lunch and parking.