

WALKWAY

MANAGEMENT

South Florida

Att: Mr. John Sotter
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As the leading floor safety expert in Florida, I wanted to take a moment to lay this out as clearly as possible—static coefficient of friction (SCOF) testing is not just useless, it's actively misleading and dangerous. We've known this for years, but somehow, it's still kicking around like a bad habit that just won't die.

Let me give you a real-world example of why this matters. We recently tested a pool deck at a resort in South Florida after six slip-and-fall accidents in just two weeks. Now, if you were going by SCOF numbers alone, this deck would have looked like the safest walkway on the planet. SCOF results were in the high 70s—fantastic, right? Except it wasn't. Because the DCOF numbers were in the low 30s and the pendulum test values were in the mid teens, meaning the moment anyone actually started walking, it was like stepping onto an ice rink.

Think about that—a surface that supposedly had "great slip resistance" according to SCOF testing was actually a total liability. Six people learned that the hard way, and guess what? The resort learned it the hard way too—in lawsuits and an order by the City of Miami to close it until area was remediated.

Here's why SCOF is simply a joke:

- People Don't Slip While Standing Still – The whole premise is nonsense. Slips happen when people move, yet SCOF testing measures friction in a way that has nothing to do with walking.
- False Sense of Security – That pool deck is proof. Anyone looking at those SCOF numbers would think it was safe, but in reality, it was a lawsuit factory. SCOF tells you absolutely nothing about real slip risk.
- Completely Ignored Internationally – The UK, Australia, and Europe dumped SCOF long ago because it doesn't work. They use Pendulum testing (BS 7976, EN 16165, AS 4586) because it actually correlates to human slip risk. Meanwhile, in the U.S., we're still stuck using a metric that belongs in a science museum next to medieval medical tools.

If we actually care about preventing slips and falls instead of just checking a box, then SCOF needs to go. The only way forward is dynamic slip testing that reflects reality. That means:

1. British Pendulum Testing (ASTM E303, EN 16165) – The global gold standard for a reason.
2. DCOF Testing like the ANSI A326.3... definitely not even close to perfect, but light-years ahead of SCOF in actually predicting slip risk.

Yours Sincerely,



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