



Standard Test Method for Surrogate Testing of Vehicle Impact Protective Devices at Low Speeds¹

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INTRODUCTION

City and county governments are beginning to adopt legislation intended to reduce the increasing number of vehicle-into-building impacts. Typically, these ordinances are enforced as part of zoning laws, which require a protective device to be installed to protect pedestrians and storefront property where nose-in or head-in parking is present. For instance, in July 2012, The County of Miami Dade Florida adopted a zoning amendment requiring protective devices be installed to protect pedestrian traffic on sidewalks and inside storefronts for all new commercial construction. Examples of ways these protective devices might be deployed otherwise include the protection of patrons at bus stops; storefronts of commercial entities where parking or the direction of traffic flow are perpendicular to the building; restaurant patios bordering the street or on a sidewalk; and these protective devices could be used to protect propane tanks, gas pumps, and other hazardous materials to promote public safety.

As the demand for vehicle impact protection devices increases, the ability to evaluate whether each protective device performs as intended to protect the people, area, or asset is required. Guidelines have been developed previously to test vehicle protective devices by applying a static load at a particular location on the protective device. For instance, the State Fire Marshal Division of the Minnesota State Department of Public Safety has issued an “Aboveground Storage Tank Plan” that discusses how to install above ground storage tanks. Section 3.8.1 states if a physical barrier is to be used to protect the storage tank, it “shall be a minimum of 36 inches in height and shall resist a force of 12 000 pounds applied 36 inches above the adjacent ground surface.” While such static test methods are beneficial in certain instances, the performance of a protective device when impacted dynamically cannot be conclusively predicted using such a test method.

Test Methods have been developed previously that provide for a range of impact conditions, designations, and penetration performance ratings for vehicles traveling at high speeds. Test Method **F2656** provides for high speed impact speeds of 65, 80, and 100 km/h [40, 50, and 60 mph]. However, no ASTM test method has been formally developed to quantify the dynamic performance of a vehicle protective device at speeds of 50 km/h [30 mph] and lower.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method provides a range of impact speeds to be used with a 22 250-N [5000 lb] surrogate test vehicle. This test method establishes a range for penetration performance ratings. End users will be responsible for identifying the appropriate vehicle impact speed and penetration performance ratings in this test method to satisfy their specific needs.

1.1.1 In addition, end users may assign certification ratings for vehicle protective devices based on the test methodologies

described herein. Test parameters are standardized to arrive at a common vehicle weight, enhance test realism and replication, and produce uniform rating designations.

1.2 *Units*—The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. The values stated in each system may not be exact equivalents; therefore, each system shall be used independently of the other. Combining values from the two systems may result in nonconformance with the standard.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F12 on Security Systems and Equipment and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F12.10 on Systems Products and Services.

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2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

C31/C31M Practice for Making and Curing Concrete Test Specimens in the Field

C39/C39M Test Method for Compressive Strength of Cylindrical Concrete Specimens

C136 Test Method for Sieve Analysis of Fine and Coarse Aggregates

D2487 Practice for Classification of Soils for Engineering Purposes (Unified Soil Classification System)

F2656 Test Method for Vehicle Crash Testing of Perimeter Barriers

2.2 AASHTO Standard:³

MASH Manual for Assessing and Safety Hardware

T099 Standard Method of Test for Moisture-Density Relations of Soils Using a 2.5-kg [5.5-lb] Rammer and a 305-mm [12-in.] Drop

2.3 ISO Standard:⁴

ISO/IEC 17025 General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories

2.4 SAE Standards:⁵

J211–1 Instrumentation for Impact Test—Part 1: Electronic Instrumentation

J211–2 Instrumentation for Impact Test—Part 2: Photographic Instrumentation

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 accredited independent testing laboratory, *n*—testing laboratory accredited to perform the referenced testing procedures by a nationally recognized accrediting agency in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025 and led by a test director.

3.1.1.1 Discussion—Accredited independent testing laboratories may have no financial interest in or otherwise be affiliated with companies or individuals for which they perform accreditation testing. Hereinafter, accredited independent testing laboratories are referred to as either accredited facilities or testing laboratories. Independent testing laboratories whose testing protocols follow this test method may also conduct tests, provided they are actively seeking ISO/IEC 17025.

3.1.2 acceleration, *v*—the change of velocity with respect to time by the sign convention established by SAE J211 Section 7.

3.1.3 agency, *n*—specifier, responsible party, or owner.

3.1.4 bollard, *n*—vertical posts or series of posts, usually steel, concrete, wood, or combinations of same used to channel

or restrict vehicular traffic, which includes fixed, removable, and operable/retractable posts.

3.1.5 channel amplitude class, *n*—numerically equal to the upper limit of the measurement range.

3.1.6 continuous barrier, *n*—any protective device that relies on a continuous foundation or a continuous structural element to resist penetration by vehicles.

3.1.7 debris, *n*—post-impact protective impact device and surrogate test vehicle components dispersed as a result of impact.

3.1.8 ditch, *n*—excavation into existing grade with varying cross sections such as “V” or “U” shaped.

3.1.9 durometer, *n*—a measure of the indentation hardness of a material.

3.1.10 dynamic penetration distance, *n*—during the crash event, the greater of the maximum dynamic displacement of any portion of the protective device into the protected area or maximum dynamic intrusion of the surrogate test vehicle into the protected area or maximum dynamic displacement of any portion of the protective device.

3.1.10.1 Discussion—See **Fig. A1.1** for location of protected area and protective device reference location.

3.1.11 final resting point, *n*—distance from the pre-impact reference location on a protective device to the farthest portion of the protective device or surrogate test vehicle.

3.1.11.1 Discussion—Additionally, if the surrogate vehicle does not pass the reference location, the final resting location shall be a negative distance as measured from the location on the surrogate test vehicle that is closest to the reference location.

3.1.12 impact location, *n*—specific location on the protective device where the surrogate test vehicle will initially contact the protective device.

3.1.12.1 Discussion—The impact location is centered on the protective device for a bollard, concrete shape, or discrete device (bench, planter, and so forth). The impact location is at the mid-span of a fence, gate, post, and beam or upside down “U.” For a continuous wall, the impact location is at an expansion joint. If there is no expansion joint, then the continuous wall shall have an impact location at mid-span. If any other protective device is to be tested, the location of impact shall be determined as the consensus among the manufacturer, testing laboratory, and end user (when applicable) for the impact location. The impact location shall be chosen as a point which will exploit the weakest point of the system.

3.1.13 penetration rating, *n*—rating achieved by a protective device based on dynamic penetration distance.

3.1.14 protected area, *n*—area, as defined by the governing agency or end user, behind the furthest lateral point of the protective device as referenced by the data, shown in **Fig. A1.1**.

3.1.15 protective device, *n*—bollard, wall, fence, planter, gate, bench, or other structure that provides protection against a vehicle entering a protected area.

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard’s Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ Available from American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), 444 N. Capitol St., NW, Suite 249, Washington, DC 20001, <http://www.transportation.org>.

⁴ Available from International Organization for Standardization (ISO), 1, ch. de la Voie-Creuse, CP 56, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, <http://www.iso.org>.

⁵ Available from SAE International (SAE), 400 Commonwealth Dr., Warrendale, PA 15096-0001, <http://www.sae.org>.

3.1.16 *rated ASTM protective device, n*—tested protective device that achieves a given penetration rating based on the surrogate test vehicle traveling perpendicular to the protective device at the defined impact location for that particular device.

3.1.17 *shallow mount platform, n*—plate, pad, or structural foundation resting on the surface or embedded no more than 305 mm [12 in.] below the surface to which one or more protective devices are rigidly fixed.

3.1.18 *supplier, n*—manufacturer, distributor, designer, or constructor of the protective device that is to be tested and can include contractors, engineers, and architects.

3.1.19 *surrogate test vehicle, n*—a 22 250-N [5000 lb] surrogate test vehicle that is designed to replicate a common vehicle type and weight. See [Annex A2](#) for required specifications for surrogate test vehicle.

3.1.19.1 *Discussion*—See [Figs. A2.1 and A2.2](#).

3.1.20 *test director, n*—employee of the testing laboratory responsible for all aspects of a test.

3.2 Acronyms:

3.2.1 *AASHTO*—American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials.

3.2.2 *ISO*—International Organization for Standardization.

3.2.3 *MASH*—Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware.

3.2.4 *SAE*—Society of Automotive Engineers.

3.2.5 *SUV*—Sport Utility Vehicle.

3.3 Abbreviations:

3.3.1 *fps*—frames per second.

3.3.2 *ft*—feet.

3.3.3 *g*—measure of acceleration referenced to gravity.

3.3.4 *in.*—inches.

3.3.5 *km/h*—kilometres per hour.

3.3.6 *kPa*—kiloPascal.

3.3.7 *lb*—pounds.

3.3.8 *m*—metres.

3.3.9 *m/s*—metres per second.

3.3.10 *mph*—miles per hour.

3.3.11 *ms*—milliseconds.

3.3.12 *N*—newtons.

3.3.13 *psi*—pounds per square inch.

3.3.14 *s*—second.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 The set of complete fabrication drawings and specifications for a protective device that will be tested shall be submitted by the supplier to the testing laboratory at least 14 days before testing. These documents shall become part of the permanent test record.

4.2 Before testing, an approved surrogate test vehicle speed and penetration rating is selected by the supplier in coordination with the test director and other stakeholders. Additionally, if the protective device does not have an identified impact location as stated above, then the supplier, testing laboratory,

and user agency or end user (when applicable) shall come to a consensus and identify the impact location as stated in [3.1.12](#).

4.3 There will be a minimum of one test conducted. The first test article shall be the as-built test article if not specified; test the proposed design in washed sand. If the foundation displaces 25 mm [1 in.] or less in any direction from the initial footing location, the system is considered rigid and no other testing is required. If the foundation displaces greater than 25 mm [1 in.] in any direction from the initial foundation location, a second test is required with the foundation encased in a concrete slab. For protective devices on shallow mount foundations, only a single test is required, provided the platform is set in accordance with supplier's instruction.

4.4 The test director shall determine the validity of the test and, if found valid, shall assign a speed and a penetration rating for the protective device.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This test method provides a procedure to establish a penetration rating for vehicle protective devices subjected to low-speed vehicle impact. Knowing the penetration rating provides the end user with the ability to select an appropriate protective device for site-specific conditions.

5.2 The protective device penetration rating does not imply that a device will perform as rated in all site conditions, approach routes, and topography. Also, this test method requires that the specimen only be tested at a specific impact location and, therefore, not all locations of impact can be tested and validated for a penetration rating. Other impact locations may provide different penetration ratings.

6. Apparatus

6.1 [Appendix X1](#) provides recommendations on methods of data acquisition that are required by this test method. [Appendix X2](#) provides an example form that may be used for surrogate test vehicle parameters to be measured before testing.

6.2 Pre-test data acquisition shall document the as-built, untested protective device and surrogate test vehicle configuration. Documentation includes as-built specifications and fabrication drawings for the protective device, measurements, and photography. Survey locations for evaluation of any base slab, columns, bollards, protective device, or protective device support elements that may define deformation, translation, rotation, and uplift should be recorded in pre-test and post-test states.

6.3 During the test, surrogate test vehicle impact speed and impact angle shall be measured. Video documentation, with perpendicular (profile), overhead, and downstream aligned with the centerline of the protective device (on surrogate test vehicle) shall be provided. Oblique views are recommended. Photographic instrumentation specifications shall be in accordance with SAE Standard J211–2. Minimum high-speed film or video shall be 400 fps or greater. Determination of impact time equals 0 s shall be established by the use of a contact ribbon switch mounted to the front face of the protective device or surrogate test vehicle bumper triggered at a point that

can be recorded on the video documentation for cross referencing between video sources. In addition, the maximum dynamic penetration of any portion of the protective device or the surrogate test vehicle shall be measured from the initial reference location. In [Fig. A1.1](#), the reference location is illustrated.

6.4 Surrogate test vehicle acceleration shall be measured beginning 500 ms before impact and ending after the vehicle has come to rest. The primary accelerometer shall be located within 305 mm [12 in.] of the x-axis, y-axis, and 50 mm [2 in.] of the z-axis of the center of gravity of the surrogate test vehicle and set to measure longitudinal and lateral acceleration. The secondary accelerometer shall be located within 305 mm [12 in.] directly above the rear axle and centered along the x-axis of the surrogate test vehicle and set to measure longitudinal and lateral acceleration. Electronic instrumentation specifications shall be in accordance with SAE Standard J211–1. Additionally, all accelerometers must have a minimum channel amplitude class of 75 g.

6.4.1 Collecting acceleration data 500 ms before impact provides data to determine the stability of the surrogate test vehicle before impact.

6.5 After the test, protective device deformation, movement of the protective device foundation, surrogate test vehicle penetration, and damage of both test article and surrogate test vehicle, if any, shall be documented with measurements, data recordings, and photography. See [6.2](#) for suggested data collection locations. Greatest displacement of any debris from the test article and any debris from the test article over 50 N [10 lb] shall be measured in a straight line from impact location. Measure the general extents of the debris field. Other parameters peculiar to a protective device may entail additional documentation. For instance, a gate may be shown to be operational after the collision, even though this is not a requirement of this test method.

7. Testing

7.1 *Impact Performance*—The impact speed that the protective device is to withstand shall be established by the supplier in consultation with the test director and others who might be involved. Actual impact speed shall be within the permissible speed range for the test to be deemed acceptable. During the test, the greater of the maximum dynamic intrusion of the surrogate test vehicle or the maximum dynamic displacement of any portion of the protective device into the protected area at the impact speed determines the dynamic penetration rating for that specific speed. Surrogate test vehicle dynamic penetration shall be referenced to the leading edge of the surrogate test vehicle. There are three nominal test speeds in this test method: 20, 35, and 50 km/h [10, 20 and 30 mph] ([Table 1](#)).

7.2 Test Site:

7.2.1 Tests shall be conducted at an accredited facility. These accredited facilities shall have adequate space to accelerate the surrogate test vehicle to the desired impact speed and have a 2-m [6.56-ft] minimum distance behind the protective device reference location, as shown in [Fig. A1.1](#) and in

TABLE 1 Impact Condition Designations

Surrogate Test Vehicle Weight, N [lb]	Nominal Minimum Test Speed, km/h [mph]	Permissible Speed Range, km/h [mph]	Impact Speed Rating
	20 [10]	19 – 33.9 [9 – 18.9]	S10
22 250 ± 490 [5000 ± 110]	35 [20]	34 – 47.4 [19 – 27.4]	S20
	50 [30]	47.5 – 52.5 [27.5 – 32.5]	S30

accordance with [Table 1](#). In general, the space in front of and behind the test article needs to be level and clear unless part of the test installation.

7.2.2 Tests shall be conducted on flat, level ground where the grade change is less than 2 %. Protective devices can then be installed on curbs/sidewalks if the impact side face of the protective device is installed within 0.41 m [1.35 ft] of the face of the curb/sidewalk. However, if the protective device's impact side face is to be installed greater than 0.41 m [1.35 ft] away from the face of the curb/sidewalk, see [7.3](#).

7.2.3 For the first test, the test article will be embedded in washed sand. The washed sand will have a depth and width 1.5 times the foundation depth or 0.6 m [2 ft], whichever is greater up to a maximum of 1.8 m [6 ft] and extend 0.3 m [1 ft] below bottom of device. The washed sand shall be analyzed in accordance with Test Method [C136](#) and classified in accordance with Practice [D2487](#). The washed sand shall be classified as SP – poorly graded sand and be compacted to a density of not less than 90 % maximum dry density in accordance with AASHTO Method of Test T099.

7.2.4 If a second test is necessary, the test article foundation shall be installed in a concrete slab. The concrete slab shall be formed out of 25 000-kPa [3600-psi] concrete and tested in accordance with both Practice [C31/C31M](#) and Test Method [C39/C39M](#). For the foundation to be considered rigid, the embedded foundation shall be in excess of three times the weight of the surrogate test vehicle or 66 800 N [15 000 lb].

7.3 *Test Article*—The protective device shall be constructed in a manner representative of the proposed actual service installation and conform to the supplier specifications and fabrication drawings. Any deviations from fabrication, specification, or erection details shall be noted in the test report. For instance, when the test article is to be installed greater than 0.41 m [1.35 ft] away from the curb, it shall be tested as such.

7.4 *Surrogate Test Vehicle*—The surrogate test vehicle shall be 22 250 ± 490 N [5000 ± 110 lb] consisting of an impactor nose with the impact height at 710 ± 30 mm [28 ± 1 in.]. [Table 2](#) provides the required dimensions and specifications for

TABLE 2 Surrogate Test Vehicle Properties

Property	Specification
Wheel Base	2540 ± 125 mm [100 ± 5 in.]
Track Width	1805 ± 50 mm [71 ± 2 in.]
Tire Size	225/75/R15
Tire Inflation Pressure (minimum)	450 kPa [65 psi]
Gross Static Weight	22 250 ± 490 N [5000 ± 110 lb]
Center of Gravity	710 ± 30 mm [28 ± 1 in.]

