



Step Mu Evaluation

1 Introduction

Note: Nothing in this standard supercedes applicable laws and regulations.

Note: In the event of conflict between the English and domestic language, the English language shall take precedence.

1.1 Purpose. Provide a common global development and validation performance evaluation of a driveline system that utilizes traction enhancing driveline hardware, e.g., Active On Demand (AOD) All Wheel Drive (AWD). This procedure is also performed to evaluate the performance of driveline components after being subjected to severe loads resulting from multiple vehicle launches on "step mu" surfaces, i.e., surfaces that change from small frictional coefficient (μ), i.e., "low mu", to large frictional coefficient, i.e., "hi mu".

1.2 Applicability. Passenger cars and light trucks equipped with an AOD AWD system. Typically these systems have a clutch mechanism that splits torque between front and rear axle as required.

1.3 Remarks. This test is typically run by the GM Vehicle Dynamics group or the GM Driveline group and is used for development/validation of the drivetrain or traction performance. These systems may include but, are not limited to, AOD AWD and regular AWD systems, drive shafts, half shafts, axles, torque couplings, and driveline disconnects.

2 References

Note: Only the latest approved standards are applicable unless otherwise specified.

2.1 External Standards/Specifications.

None

2.2 GM Standards/Specifications.

GMW14264

3 Resources

3.1 Facilities. The test is typically run at Milford Proving Ground (MPG), "low mu" (ceramic tiles) test surfaces within the Vehicle Dynamics Test Area (VDTA) or on ice at the Winter Test Facility with adjacent dry pavement at each end of the "low mu" surface creating a "step mu" transition the vehicle crosses front to rear. See 4.2 for "low mu" and "hi mu" surface definitions.

The test surface for "step mu" consists of the area at the start or end of the "low mu" test area. Front Wheel Drive (FWD) and Rear Wheel Drive (RWD) vehicles will use opposite ends of the test area. An adjacent "hi mu" surface is also used as part of the test for the "hi mu" launches.

Note: The test track shall have at least a 3.5 m wide test lane leading into and out of the "low mu" surface. The test track shall also have an adjacent 3.5 m wide test lane for testing "hi mu" launches.

3.1.1 Calibration. The test facilities and equipment shall be in good working order and shall have a valid calibration label.

3.1.2 Alternatives. Alternative test facilities and equipment may also be used. However, all measuring variables as specified in this standard shall be determined correctly with respect to their physical definition.

3.2 Equipment.

3.2.1 Data Acquisition System (DAS). The DAS is used for recording vehicle communication bus, e.g., Controller Area Network (CAN), Local Interconnect Network (LIN), etc. channels and instrumented driveline or

chassis controller channels (if requested/necessary). The vehicle communication bus shall be recorded at full bus speed, e.g., Global A CAN is 500 kbit/s, but individual modules on the bus may have slower update rates as compared to overall vehicle bus. The DAS shall have at a minimum a recording speed matching the fastest communication bus rate for all data channels.

Note: When recording digital data or external analog data it should be broadcast and recorded at a sample rate of no less than 1000 Hz. Examples of external data include throttle pedal position and axle torque.

3.2.2 Longitudinal Speed Measurement Device and Readout. The speed transducer must be capable of reading velocity in excess of the vehicle test speed. A minimum of 150 km/h is recommended. The transducer accuracy must be within 0.5 km/h over the speed range of 5 km/h to 150 km/h.

3.2.3 Lateral Speed Measurement Device and Readout. The speed transducer must be capable of reading velocity in excess of the vehicle test speed. A minimum of 50 km/h is recommended. The transducer accuracy must be within 0.5 km/h over the speed range of ± 50 km/h.

3.2.4 Accelerometer Oriented to Measure Longitudinal Acceleration. The accelerometer must be capable of measuring a minimum of 11.75 m/s^2 (1.2G), with an accuracy of 0.1 m/s^2 (0.01G).

3.2.5 Accelerometer Oriented to Measure Lateral Acceleration. The accelerometer must be capable of measuring a minimum of 11.75 m/s^2 (1.2G), with an accuracy of 0.1 m/s^2 (0.01G).

3.2.6 Angular Rate Sensor Oriented to Measure Yaw Velocity. The angular rate transducer must be capable of measuring at ± 50 degrees/s with an accuracy of 0.01 degrees/s.

3.2.7 Throttle Pedal Percentage/Travel. Record signal direct from pedal position sensor.

3.2.8 Driveline Torque Data for Each Wheel. Instrumented half shafts and/or axle shafts and associated slip rings and signal conditioning devices.

Note: Do not use wheel force transducers as wheel inertia maybe different than the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) recommended wheel inertia.

3.2.9 Wheel Velocity Data for Each Wheel. The transducers must be capable of reading velocity in excess of the vehicle test speed, a minimum of 50 km/h over test velocity is recommended. The transducer accuracy must be within 0.5 km/h over the speed range of 5 km/h to 150 km/h.

Note: 3.2.8 and 3.2.9 are typically required only for driveline development testing unless requested.

3.3 Test Vehicle/Test Piece. The vehicle shall be equipped with specific driveline configuration requested. It may be possible to interchange driveline, chassis controls, tires and wheels, and powertrain hardware and software to accomplish multiple test configurations on the same vehicle.

Note: All available combinations of engine, transmission, AWD, final drive ratios, i.e., all possible propulsion systems, and tire and wheel combinations may need to be tested separately due to differences in driveline reactions and other hardware or electronic influences. Consult the Requesting Engineer for the test objectives and required combinations required to meet the test objectives.

Note: Tire and wheel combinations should be the OEM recommended type, i.e., brand, size, construction, etc. Although required in many regions, "snow" tires often do not react similarly on artificial surfaces (ceramic tiles) as compared to actual (ice) "low mu" test surfaces. Snow tires must be tested on actual "low mu" (ice) surfaces.

3.4 Test Time.

Calendar time: 5 days
Test hours: 24 hours
Coordination hours: 16 hours

3.5 Test Required Information. Possible sources are:

- Statement of Requirements (SOR)
- Vehicle Technical Specification (VTS)
- Subsystem Technical Specification (SSTS)
- Analysis/Development/Validation (ADV) Plan
- Validation Cross Reference Index (VCRI)

- Application Engineer
- Development Groups
- Drawings

3.6 Personnel/Skills. Trained driver. Ability to conduct end of test inspection of test parts if required.

4 Procedure

4.1 Preparation.

4.1.1 Determine and record the number of consecutive "step mu" accelerations, throttle pedal positions and chassis/driveline mode combinations to be tested based on requirements in 3.5 or as required by Requesting Engineer. Document the test configuration on Data Sheets A2 and A3 in Appendix A. Multiple copies of Data Sheet A3 will be required to document the various ballast conditions and test modes. Provide the following:

- Fleet Number or Vehicle identification Number (VIN)
- Vehicle configuration
- Test surface (simulated or actual "low mu" surface) and any special temperature requirements.
- Number of consecutive "step mu" tests in each mode.
- Elapsed time between the start of consecutive runs, i.e., total cycle time of each run, which allows for returning the vehicle to start of the test surface and incidental cool down of drivetrain components. This is typically approximately ($\approx$) 20 s if not specified in the requirements in 3.5.

Note: Throttle pedal positions, 30%, 60% and 100%, i.e., Wide Open Throttle (WOT), shall be achieved within $\pm 5\%$ with no overshoot and ramped in with rapid throttle pedal application. A throttle application defined as Drivers Best Effort (DBE) can also be performed if requested. DBE is typically defined as maximum acceleration obtainable without significant traction control or stability control actuation.

4.1.2 Install instrumentation for recording test data as required by Requesting Engineer. The following channels being critical to most tests:

- Vehicle bus (critical signals)
- Wheel speeds (all wheels)
- Transmission gear state (or ratio)
- Throttle pedal position
- Estimated torque signals (if available, i.e., anything pertaining to driveline engine/hybrid systems)
- Traction/stability control status
- User selected modes effecting driveline/vehicle performance
- Vehicle Acceleration

Note: Optional channels are defined in 3.2.8 and 3.2.9.

4.1.3 Set tire pressure to specifications.

4.1.4 Check all fluid levels. Fill as required.

4.1.5 Inspect all driveline torque carrying components with vehicle on hoist. Record any leaks or unusual conditions on Data Sheet A2 in Appendix A using the subjective scales of GMW14264.

4.1.6 Break In. A break in is recommended for new engines and transmissions. It is mandatory if a new axle is installed in the test vehicle or the test vehicle/axle has accumulated less than 200 km (125 mi) of usage. Complete the break in as follows:

- Accelerate lightly to 100 km/h (65 mph) using normal shifts, and then vary vehicle speed between 100 km/h and 125 km/h (65 mph to 75 mph). Upshift every 5 km (3 mi), for manual transmission vehicles, and lightly accelerate through top gear.
- Decelerate lightly, while downshifting normally at 3000 rpm, for manual transmission vehicles, to a stop.
- Repeat cycles previously stated until a distance of 200 km (125 mi) is attained. A minimum of 200 km (125 mi) is mandatory if rear axle is included in a validation test (in such case, measure and record axle sump temperature during the break-in).

4.2 Conditions. Road surface coefficients are defined in Table 1.

Table 1: Road Surface Coefficients

Road Surface	Peak Friction Coefficient (μ)	Example Road Surface
High coefficient	$\mu > 0.8$	Dry Asphalt/Dry Concrete
Medium coefficient	$0.4 < \mu < 0.7$	Wet Jennite or Wet Basalt/Packed Snow
Low coefficient	$\mu < 0.3$	Wet ice, Wet Ceramic Tile, or Wet Polished Concrete/Ice
Split coefficient	Road surface with different peak friction coefficients under left and right driven wheels, e.g., low and high or medium and high peak friction coefficient combinations only.	

4.2.1 Environmental Conditions. Dry "hi mu" surface and simulated/actual "low mu" surface, e.g., wet ceramic tiles/ice, per Table 1.

4.2.2 Test Conditions. Deviations from the requirements of this standard shall have been agreed upon. Such requirements shall be specified on component drawings, test certificates, reports, etc.

4.3 Instructions. This test procedure shall be run in all "driver selected option" modes, i.e., Traction Control (TC) "on" or "off", snow and launch control, winter, sport, off-road, etc. Consult the Requesting Engineer to determine applicable modes.

4.3.1 Perform the test as defined in 4.1.1 or complete (4) four runs per mode at 30%, 60%, 100% (WOT), and DBE throttle pedal positions. Document modes and cycle counts on Data Sheet A3 in Appendix A.

Note: Allow the drivetrain to cool after completing each mode of this test procedure. Extended duration cool down is mandatory if automatic thermal shut down or thermal temperature limits per requirements in 3.5 are reached during any event. Thermal shut down limits indicate system thermal capacity and completion of that test mode.

4.3.2 Launch Conditions.

4.3.2.2 Manual Transmission: Launch the vehicle at the engine speed, revolutions per minute (RPM), based on requirements in 3.5 or as required by Requesting Engineer, with a rapid release of the clutch pedal (foot does not leave clutch pedal pad) and appropriate throttle pedal application to match clutch pedal release rate (stopping at the desired throttle pedal position).

4.3.2.3 Automatic Transmission: Determine "worst case" launch method which is either brake torqueing or simply releasing the brake pedal and rapidly applying throttle pedal to the desired position. The method that produces maximum "low mu" wheel slip is considered "worst case".

Note: Apply the throttle pedal with a ramp input to desired pedal position. Pedal shall be ramped to desired pedal percentage within 2 s and maintained at desired pedal percentage within $\pm 5\%$. Overshoot above the 5% tolerance is not allowed on initial pedal application. Suggested method is to use a block throttle or electronic limiter to achieve proper throttle pedal position.

4.3.3 Launch and Acceleration on "Step Mu" and Uniform "Hi Mu" Surfaces.

Note: For reasons of consistency in the road surface coefficients values, the same test track facility should be utilized for all parts of the test.

4.3.3.1 Move the test vehicle to the test area defined in 3.1 capable of "step mu" launches with an adjacent "hi mu" test surface.

4.3.3.2 When testing on actual ice surfaces, run one 32 km/h check stop on the "low mu" test surface to determine if the surface coefficient is acceptable at beginning of test sequence. Document the results in on Data Sheet A3 in Appendix A.

4.3.3.3 For each run defined in 4.1.1, perform both 4.3.3.4 "Step Mu" Acceleration and 4.3.3.5 "Hi Mu" Acceleration.

For FWD AWD vehicles, the vehicle is placed with the primary axle (front) on the "low mu" surface with the front axle just onto the "low mu" surface. The rear edge of front tires should be tangent to the edge of the