

# **Joint Winter Runway Friction Program Accomplishments**

by

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## **ABSTRACT**

This paper describes the scope and objectives of the Joint National Aeronautics & Space Administration (NASA)/Transport Canada (TC)/Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Winter Runway Friction Measurement Program which has just completed its seventh winter season of testing. The range of equipment tested, test sites, the friction database and the test accomplishments are described. The primary objective of this effort, which also involved several European aviation organizations, is to perform instrumented aircraft and ground vehicle tests aimed at identifying a “common number” that ground vehicle devices would report. This number, denoted as the International Runway Friction Index (IRFI), will be keyed to all types of aircraft stopping performance. Current correlations between measured aircraft stopping performance and ground vehicle IRFI values are presented for a variety of aircraft and winter runway conditions. Future test program plans are outlined and a summary of test results is given. NASA considers the success of this program critical to insuring adequate ground handling performance in adverse weather conditions for future aircraft being designed and developed as well as improving the safety of current aircraft ground operations.