Minden, Nevada – November 19, 2014 — Beneficial Designs, Inc. is now shipping the new Series 100 Rotational Penetrometers. Rotational Penetrometers are precision measurement devices that have calibrated, spring-loaded surface indicators to measure firmness and stability. Beneficial Designs, Inc. has re-engineered the heart of the system to provide an increase in resolution and accuracy of readings for measurement of all indoor and outdoor surfacing. Land management agencies, parks, recreation programs, and school systems should use a Rotational Penetrometer to ensure that the surfaces of their playgrounds, trails, and access routes are kept in firm and stable condition.

When the Department of Justice published the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design on September 15, 2010, the standards expanded to include requirements for playgrounds. The requirements state that ground surfaces in play areas shall comply with ASTM F 1951 and shall be inspected and maintained regularly and frequently to ensure continued compliance with ASTM F 1951.

ASTM F 1951 is a standard that applies to the testing of all types of materials that can be used under and around playground equipment. If a surface complies with this standard, then it is accessible. With the Series 100 Rotational Penetrometer, the results received when testing playground surfaces correlate with the ASTM F 1951 standard. In court cases regarding playground surfacing, the National Center on Accessibility has investigated surfaces using the Rotational Penetrometer to convey the presence or lack of firmness and stability. Therefore, an agency can now implement a maintenance schedule using the Series 100 Rotational Penetrometer to verify that required firmness and stability is maintained.

On November 26, 2013, the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) added regulations for Outdoor Recreation Facilities that require accessible trails, access routes, and clear spaces within campsites, common areas, and picnic areas to have firm and stable surfaces. The portable nature of the Series 100 Rotational Penetrometer makes it the only quantifiable solution to confirm firmness and stability of existing surfaces in outdoor recreation areas.


Rotational Penetrometers are available for purchase through:

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