Aircraft overruns are always damaging and sometimes disastrous. Skidding on contaminated surfaces is the most common cause of such incidents: the most effective way of preventing them is to carry out regular surveys with a recognised runway friction tester and act promptly on the results. If an overrun does occur, a timely friction survey report can be used to establish the airport’s due diligence.
Runway friction tester

The British Airports Authority put the GripTester on trial in 1988. By 2000, GripTesters were in use at all major British airports. Two years later, when there were almost 300 GripTesters in operation worldwide, the MK2 GripTester was launched. Design principles have not changed but, as technology has become more sophisticated, so has the GripTester's performance.

Design for all seasons

GripTesters are in operation in all regions of the world: arctic, equatorial and temperate.

The GripTester's light towbar pull and low centre of gravity ensure safe, stable operation on winter and summer surfaces.

The GripTester's low water usage saves time and resources when carrying out maintenance surveys.

The GripTester's automatic water control system safeguards accuracy of results.

The GTanker Trailer, which carries water for 20 km /12.5 miles of testing, facilitates creation of runway friction maps.

Flexible deployment

The GripTester's light weight, robust construction and reliable performance make it the most deployable runway friction tester in the world.

For military operations, the GripTester's ability to function in extreme weather conditions is particularly valuable.

Ease of use

New software and electronics make the MK2 GripTester even easier to calibrate, operate and maintain. One person can quickly and comfortably prepare the GripTester, carry out a survey and create a runway friction report.

Using GripSend data transmission, the report can be generated directly in the control room.

Low cost of ownership

The GripTester's open structure, modular design and high quality components ensure ease of maintenance.

The GripTester can be towed by almost any vehicle and can use almost any laptop or notebook PC as a data collection computer.

Data validation

Regulators and decision makers need to know the conditions under which runway friction tests were carried out. MK2 GripTester data includes measured parameters such as survey speed, water flow and survey track and operator-supplied parameters such as surface condition, weather and tyre type.

The MK2 GripTester carries out a range of sophisticated self-check procedures.

Annual maintenance contracts and certificates of conformity are available for GripTesters everywhere in the world.