

PRESS RELEASE

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R&A TO INTRODUCE NEW TEST FOR 'SPRING-LIKE' EFFECT

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews (the "R&A"), which is the governing authority for the Rules of Golf outside the United States of America and Mexico, has written to golf equipment manufacturers confirming that the proposed new Pendulum Test will be introduced from 1st January 2004. A copy of the Notice is attached.

This new test, which replaces the current Coefficient of Restitution Test, is designed to measure the clubhead flexibility (or 'spring-like' effect) of a driving club. It consists of a steel weight suspended on a pendulum being released from varying heights to strike the clubface. The amount of time these two objects are in contact is the basis for the test, and the conformance limit has been set at 239 microseconds, plus a test tolerance of 18 microseconds. The full test protocol is available on the R&A's website (www.randa.org).

The proposal, issued in February 2003, prompted many comments from manufacturers – all of which have been reviewed and carefully considered. Some changes have been made to the original proposal as a result of this input.

Speaking about the new test, David Rickman, Rules Secretary of the R&A said "The introduction of the Pendulum Test is the culmination of a lengthy period of work carried out by both the R&A and the United States Golf Association. The new test is relatively simple and non-destructive and the device is portable. We believe that in developing this new test we have satisfied not only our requirements, but also those of manufacturers and other interested parties such as the Professional Tours."

In the R&A's areas of rules jurisdiction, from 1st January 2004 until 31st December 2007, the new test is only relevant in elite level competitions (where an appropriate Condition of Competition has been introduced). For most competitions and all recreational play, there will continue to be no 'spring-like' effect test or conformance limit until 1st January 2008.

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