



Designation: F939 – 18

Standard Practice for Selection of Release Torque Values for Alpine Ski Bindings¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F939; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

INTRODUCTION

Adhering to these guidelines may help to reduce the risk of injuries resulting from improper release torque selection. However, skiing involves inherent risks. Injury can result from simply falling down, impact with another object, or from many other actions. Many injuries are unrelated to binding release/retention characteristics. Furthermore, even a properly adjusted binding cannot release under all injury-producing loads or retain at all times when retention is desired. Therefore, it is to be clearly understood that compliance with these guidelines in no way guarantees that injury can be prevented.

1. Scope

1.1 This practice provides procedures for the selection of release torque values for Alpine ski/boot/bindings systems. These procedures may be used by ski binding manufacturers in their instructions for installation and use and by ski shops for the adjustment of already mounted ski bindings.

1.2 This practice is applicable to releasable Alpine ski/boot/binding systems.

1.3 Release torque values selected using this practice may not be appropriate for circumstances in which:

1.3.1 The skier carries an object that significantly increases the skier's effective body weight,

1.3.2 The skier grasps or in some manner controls an object such as a sled, or

1.3.3 The skier encounters exceptional snow or terrain conditions not commonly found on developed ski slopes.

1.4 This practice may be inappropriate for non-mechanical bindings or bindings used with boots that reach more than half way up the lower leg.

1.5 Release torque values outside the recommendations of this practice may increase the risk of injury to the skier. However, skiers who are informed of this potential risk may request such settings and have them provided, subject to any guidelines and limitations specified by the binding manufacturer.

1.6 These values refer to recommended release torque for initial adjustment of a ski binding and subsequent readjustment

of the binding during routine maintenance or following a suspected malfunction. However, these values are not intended to apply to the condition of the equipment at any time after it is put into use.

1.6.1 For information concerning applicable tolerances to be used for the adjustment and inspection of releasable Alpine ski bindings in retail operations consult Practice **F1063**; for rental applications consult Practice **F1064**.

1.7 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.8 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

F504 Test Method for Measuring the Quasi-Static Release Moments of Alpine Ski Bindings

F1061 Specification for Ski Binding Test Devices

F1063 Practice for Functional Inspections and Adjustments of Alpine Ski/Binding/Boot Systems

F1064 Practice for Sampling and Inspection of Complete and Incomplete Alpine Ski/Binding/Boot Systems in Rental Applications

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee **F27** on Snow and Water Sports and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee **F27.10** on Binding Test Procedures.

Current edition approved Jan. 1, 2018. Published March 2018. Originally approved in 1985. Last previous edition approved in 2012 as F939 – 12. DOI: 10.1520/F0939-18.

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

2.2 ISO Standard:³

8061 Method for the Selection of Release Torque Values

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *release/retention settings*—release torque of the ski/boot/binding system in twist (M_z) and forward lean (M_y) as defined in Test Method **F504**.

3.1.2 *skier type*—classification selected by the skier for the type of skiing to be undertaken.

3.1.2.1 *I*—designation that provides lower than average release/retention settings; corresponds to an increased risk of inadvertent binding release in order to gain releasability in a fall; also applies to entry-level skiers uncertain of their classification.

3.1.2.2 *II*—designation that provides average release/retention settings appropriate for most recreational skiing; applies to skiers not classified as in Type I or III.

3.1.2.3 *III*—designation that provides higher than average release/retention settings; corresponds to decreased releasability in a fall in order to gain a decreased risk of inadvertent binding release.

3.1.3 *(/)*—symbol that separates skier type designations; used when, as a result of troubleshooting, different skier types have been selected for determining twist (M_x) and forward lean (M_y) release/retention settings; shown in the order (twist/forward lean) or (T/H) to denote toe piece (T) and heel piece (H) of the ski binding. Other conventions may be used to record different skier types for twist and forward lean when required by the documentation.

NOTE 1—See **Appendix X2** for examples of other definitions of skier type.

3.1.4 *normal settings*—release/retention settings derived through the use of Skier Types I, II, and III.

3.1.5 *discretionary settings*—release/retention settings higher or lower than the normal setting range

3.1.5.1 *(-)*—symbol that when placed to the left of Type I provides release/retention settings lower than Type I; corresponds to a further increase in the risk of inadvertent binding release in order to gain increased releasability in a fall.

3.1.5.2 *(+)*—symbol that when placed to the right of Type III provides release/retention settings higher than Type III; corresponds to a further decrease in releasability in a fall in order to gain a decreased risk of inadvertent binding release.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The use of these definitions in determining the release setting may be inappropriate for some types of competitive skiing or competition training.

4.2 The release torque values derived through these procedures are applicable to ski binding test devices defined by Specification **F1061**.

5. Procedures

5.1 A range of twist release torque values (M_z) based on the mass of the skier is calculated from the equations given in **5.1.1 – 5.1.3**.

5.1.1 *Upper Limit for Twist, M_z* —in N-m is determined by the following equations:

5.1.1.1 If the mass of the skier is less than 70 kg:

$$M_z = 0.84 m_s + 4 \quad (1)$$

5.1.1.2 If the mass of the skier is greater than or equal to 70 kg:

$$M_z = 0.69 m_s + 15 \quad (2)$$

where:

m_s = the mass of the skier in kg.

5.1.2 *Lower Value for Twist, M_z* , in N-m is determined by the following equations:

5.1.2.1 If the mass of the skier is less than 75 kg:

$$M_z = 0.71 m_s \quad (3)$$

5.1.2.2 If the mass of the skier is greater than or equal to 75 kg:

$$M_z = 0.59 m_s + 9 \quad (4)$$

where:

m_s = is the mass of the skier in kg.

5.1.3 Ski binding manufacturers should not recommend release torque values higher than the upper limit of this range but may recommend settings below the lower limit. Manufacturers may provide additional information to guide the installer and user in the selection of such values.

5.2 If the mass of the skier is greater than the maximum recommended mass for his or her height (h), use release torque values corresponding to his or her maximum recommended mass, $m_{r\max}$, which is given by the following equation:

$$m_{r\max} = 100(h - 1) \quad (5)$$

for $h > 1.5$ m,

where:

h = s the height of the skier in m.

5.3 The recommended release torque is adjusted for skier type, age, and other factors as follows:

5.3.1 The skier type adjustment for normal settings is – (10 to 20) % for I, 0 % for II, and + (10 to 20) % for III or 3 Nm, whichever is greater. The adjustment for discretionary settings should be (10 to 20) % less than the Type I setting for (–)I and (10 to 20) % greater than the Type III setting for III(+), or 3 N-m, whichever is greater.

5.3.2 The age adjustment for skiers age 9 years and younger or 50 years and older is – (10 to 20) % or –3 Nm, whichever is greater.

5.4 The release torque in forward lean, M_y , is calculated in terms of the skier type and age adjusted value of M_z in N-m by the following equation:

$$M_y = M_z(3.6 + 0.0065 \text{ N}^{-1} \text{ m}^{-1} M_z) \quad (6)$$

³ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036.

5.4.1 The M_z value used for this calculation may be based on any value that meets the requirements of 5.1.1 – 5.3.2.

5.5 The equations in Section 5 provide recommended release torque values as functions of the input data. If a calculator is not used or its use is not required by the binding manufacturer or binding tester manufacturer the discrete values given in Appendix X1 may be considered an acceptable approximation of the functions provided in this practice. When calculating the upper and lower limits for the range of twist release torque

values (M_z) for use in Table X1.1, the M_z value to be used will reflect any adjustments for skier type as well as age.

5.6 Appendix X1.3.1 provides an example of information for skiers dissatisfied with the release/retention performance of their ski/boot/binding system.

6. Keywords

6.1 discretionary settings; normal settings; release/retention settings; release system; release torque; ski binding; skier type

APPENDIXES

(Nonmandatory Information)

X1. EXAMPLE OF A RELEASE VALUE SELECTION TABLE USING DISCRETE VALUES

X1.1 Skier Type Selection

X1.1.1 Refer all skiers to the Skier Type Classification Poster, Appendix X2, and check that the skier’s selection is recorded clearly.

X1.1.2 When troubleshooting release/retention problems, refer skiers who, from experience, have been dissatisfied with their release/retention settings to the Information for Skiers Requesting Discretionary Settings, Appendix X3.

X1.1.2.1 If a skier selects different skier types for toe and heel piece, record the choice with a (/) separating the two types, in the order toe/heel (T/H).

X1.1.3 If a skier selects discretionary settings lower than those derived from Type I, record this selection with a (–) symbol to the left of Type I.

X1.1.4 If a skier selects discretionary settings higher than those derived from Type III, record this selection with a (+) symbol to the right of Type III.

X1.2 Skier Code Determination

X1.2.1 Note the skier’s weight, height, age, and skier type.

X1.2.2 In Table X1.1 find the skier code that corresponds to the skier’s weight and the skier code that corresponds to the skier’s height.

X1.2.3 If the skier codes are different, select the skier code closer to the top of the table.

X1.2.4 This skier code is for a Type I skier. For a Type II skier, move down the table one skier code. For a Type III skier,

TABLE X1.1 Release Value Selection

Skier Weight	Skier Height	Skier Code	Reference Torque, N-m	
			Twist	Forward Lean
			5	18
22 to 29 lb ^A (10 to 13 kg)		A	8	29
30 to 38 lb ^B (14 to 17 kg)		B	11	40
39 to 47 lb (18 to 21 kg)		C	14	52
48 to 56 lb (22 to 25 kg)		D	17	64
57 to 66 lb (26 to 30 kg)		E	20	75
67 to 78 lb (31 to 35 kg)		F	23	87
79 to 91 lb (36 to 41 kg)		G	27	102
92 to 107 lb (42 to 48 kg)	4 ft, 10 in. or less (148 cm or less)	H	31	120
108 to 125 lb (49 to 57 kg)	4 ft, 11 in. to 5 ft, 1 in. (149 to 157 cm)	I	37	141
126 to 147 lb (58 to 66 kg)	5 ft, 2 in. to 5 ft, 5 in. (158 to 166 cm)	J	43	165
148 to 174 lb (67 to 78 kg)	5 ft, 6 in. to 5 ft, 10 in. (167 to 178 cm)	K	50	194
175 to 209 lb (79 to 94 kg)	5 ft, 11 in. to 6 ft, 4 in. (179 to 194 cm)	L	58	229
210 lb or greater (95 kg or greater)	6 ft, 5 in. or greater (195 cm or greater)	M	67	271
		N	78	320
		O	91	380
		P	105	452
			122	536
			142	640

^A For skiers 29 lb and under, no further correction is appropriate.

^B For skiers 38 lb and under, Skier Type–I is inappropriate.

move down the table two skier codes. This classification is not recommended for skiers 47 lb (21 kg) and under.

X1.2.5 If the skier is age 9 and younger or 50 and older, move up the table one skier code.

X1.2.6 If separate toe and heel skier types were selected by the skier, steps 4 and 5 above must be repeated for the second skier type and the resulting skier codes recorded in the order T/H.

X1.3 Release Torque Determination

X1.3.1 Discrete Twist and Forward Lean release torque values are located at the intersection of the Skier Code row and the Reference Torque column in **Table X1.1**.

X2. Example of Skier Type Classification Poster

X2.1 See Fig. X2.1.

Release Preference

DETERMINING YOUR RELEASE PREFERENCE IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

Your release preference, height, weight, age, and boot sole length are used by the shop technician to determine the release/retention settings for your bindings. Consult these descriptions to select your setting. Be sure to provide accurate information. Errors may increase your risk of injury.

 <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">Type I</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Skiers preferring lower release settings or those uncertain of their preference</p> <hr/> <p>Skiers who designate themselves as Type I receive lower than average release settings. This corresponds to an increased risk of inadvertent binding release in order to gain releasability in a fall. This type also applies to entry-level skiers uncertain of their classification.</p>	<p>Skiers not classified as Type I or III</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">Type II</p> <hr/> <p>Skiers who designate themselves as Type II receive average release settings appropriate for most recreational skiing.</p>	 <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">Type III</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Skiers preferring higher release settings</p> <hr/> <p>Skiers who designate themselves as Type III receive higher than average release settings. This corresponds to decreased releasability in a fall in order to gain a decreased risk of inadvertent binding release.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">This Classification is not recommended for skiers 47 lb (21 kg) and under.</p>
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If from experience, you have been dissatisfied with the release settings that result from your release preference, mention this to your binding technician.

FIG. X2.1 Skier Type Classification Poster

X3. Example of Information for Skiers Dissatisfied with the Release/Retention Performance of Their Ski/Boot/Binding System

X3.1 See Fig. X3.1.

INFORMATION FOR SKIERS REQUESTING DISCRETIONARY SETTINGS

1. Your normal release/retention settings comply with ASTM standards. Although these guidelines may be inappropriate for some types of competitive skiing or competition training, they are believed to provide an effective compromise between the release and retention needs of most recreational skiers.
2. Adhering to these guidelines may help to reduce the risk of injuries resulting from improper release/retention setting selection. However, skiing involves inherent risks. Injury can result from simply falling down, impact with an object, or from many other actions. Many injuries are unrelated to the function of the release system. Furthermore, even a properly adjusted binding cannot protect the skier in all situations.
3. Difficulties with release or retention may be unrelated to release/retention settings and can result from your skiing style, the incompatibility of your boots and bindings, or wear, damage, or contamination of a component of the release system. Be sure to describe your circumstances to the shop technician and to authorize recommended inspections and repairs before proceeding.
4. If you have been dissatisfied with the release/retention settings that result from your normal skier classification, you may wish to consider changing your skier classification or designating skier type classifications that are different for twist and forward lean. You may even request discretionary release/retention settings that are outside of your setting range. If you believe that you require higher release/retention settings but are unsure if the increase should be applied to twist or forward lean settings, request that the increase be applied to forward lean settings before experimenting with higher twist settings. Similarly if you believe that you require lower release/retention settings but are unsure if the decrease should be applied to twist or forward lean settings, request that the decrease be applied to twist settings before experimenting with lower forward lean settings.

Lower settings correspond to an increase in the risk of inadvertent binding release in order to gain increased releasability in a fall.

Higher settings correspond to a decrease in releasability in a fall in order to gain a decreased risk of inadvertent binding release.

Although the shop technician may help you to record your choice on the appropriate form, the final decision on your release/retention settings is yours.

FIG. X3.1 Information for Skiers Dissatisfied with Release/Retention Performance of Ski/Boot/Binding System

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