

## ALL THREE COMPOUNDS USED DURING FREE PRACTICE IN SHANGHAI: LEWIS HAMILTON FASTEST FOR MERCEDES ON THE ULTRASOFT TYRE

**TYRE PERFORMANCE AS EXPECTED ON A CHALLENGING CIRCUIT IN COOL  
CONDITIONS, WITH TEAMS FOCUSSED ON COMPOUND COMPARISONS**

**AROUND 0.7 SECONDS SEPARATE SOFT FROM ULTRASOFT, AT THE FIRST  
RACE OF THE SEASON WITH A 'STEP' BETWEEN THE TYRE NOMINATIONS**

*Shanghai, April 13, 2018* - Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton topped both free practice sessions in China, using the soft tyre in the morning and then the ultrasoft to go fastest in the afternoon, with Ferrari also within a tenth of a second after FP2.

The forecast of rain did not materialise until right at the end of the session, but temperatures remained cool and cloudy, with 19 degrees centigrade ambient and 21 degrees on track at the end of FP2.

Teams concentrated on gathering data across all three compounds with different fuel loads in order to formulate their race strategies, with a dry race expected on Sunday. A lot of the work consisted of direct tyre comparisons, with teams assessing the overall performance of the ultrasoft compared to the medium and soft.

### MARIO ISOLA - HEAD OF CAR RACING

*"This is the first race of the season where we have a gap between the compounds, with our nominations being medium, soft and ultrasoft, missing out the supersoft. The thinking behind this strategy was to have a fairly even time gap between all three compounds available. This has proved to be the case so far, with a gap of about 0.9 seconds between medium and soft, and a slightly smaller one between the soft and ultrasoft, leading to a total difference of around 1.6 seconds from medium to ultrasoft. This should lead to some interesting strategies, with some cars seeming to be more at home on certain compounds than others. A lot of this behaviour is of course influenced by weather, and it looks like teams will have to adapt their cars and strategies to what are likely to be slightly warmer conditions in the race, which should play to the strengths of the harder compounds available, with a higher working range."*

### FREE PRACTICE 1 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Hamilton	1m33.999s	SOFT NEW
Raikkonen	1m34.358s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Bottas	1m34.457s	SOFT NEW

### FREE PRACTICE 2 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Hamilton	1m33.482s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Raikkonen	1m33.489s	ULTRASOFT NEW
Bottas	1m33.515s	ULTRASOFT NEW

## FP1 - BEST TIME BY COMPOUND

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
MEDIUM	Ricciardo	1m35.696s
SOFT	Hamilton	1m33.999s
ULTRASOFT	Raikkonen	1m34.358s





## FP2 - BEST TIME BY COMPOUND

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
MEDIUM	Bottas	1m34.387s
SOFT	Raikkonen	1m34.063s
ULTRASOFT	Hamilton	1m33.482s
INTERMEDIATE	Ocon	1m51.665s

## MOST LAPS BY COMPOUND SO FAR


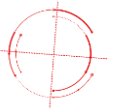
COMPOUND	DRIVER	LAPS
MEDIUM	Leclerc	21
SOFT	Ericsson, Sirotkin	21
ULTRASOFT	Gasly	22
INTERMEDIATE	Ocon, Perez	3

## TYRE STATISTICS OF THE DAY

				
Kms driven*	1182	2288	1994	70
Sets used overall**	17	33	30	6

\* The above number gives the total amount of kilometres driven in FP1 and FP2 today, all drivers combined.

\*\* Per compound, all drivers combined.

MIN. STARTING PRESSURES (slicks)		EOS CAMBER LIMIT	
	<b>21.0</b> psi (front)   <b>20.0</b> psi (rear)	<b>-3.50°</b> (front)   <b>-2.00°</b> (rear)	

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