

Press Release

IR & corporate communication

Results of analysis of nitrosamine erroneous

On behalf of a regional assistance agency for among others the Area Health Authority (GGD), the RIVM (National Institute for Public Health and the Environment) has conducted a further study of the release of nitrosamines from the rubber infill made from processed car tyres that is used in artificial grass pitches. New measurements on a number of sports pitches were taken by the RIVM and two other laboratories, one of which had been involved in an earlier study. Contrary to the findings of the two other laboratories (including RIVM), the laboratory that took the original measurements again measured nitrosamines. It also identified nitrosamines in blank control samples, which is an impossibility.

There are thus serious misgivings about the accuracy of the earlier measurements. The RIVM therefore concluded that nitrosamines present no health risks to users of sports pitches made of artificial grass that have a rubber infill. The conclusions of the RIVM in this study have been confirmed by a countercheck in a German laboratory that is specially equipped to conduct nitrosamine analysis

TenCate regrets the errors made by the laboratory involved in the initial measurements, because these have unnecessarily caused grave concern among the public. The reporting was made in a negligent manner and this has had negative repercussions on the artificial grass industry as a whole. Companies in this industrial sector, including TenCate, had at the time called the first study by a regional assistance agency (HGM) incomplete, and its conclusions premature.

TenCate promotes Thiolon® Infill Pro

Measurements have also been taken at one of the Cruiff Courts, a concept developed by TenCate to provide pitches for youngsters, incorporating Thiolon® Infill Pro. This infill is made on the basis of material from the food packaging industry. The material is entirely safe. An additional advantage is that its playing properties, shock absorption, suitability for sliding tackles, etc. can be better guaranteed than with the recycled rubber infill made from car tyres. This too is an aspect of safety.

For the RIVM report, we would refer to their website: <http://www.rivm.nl/rvs/Dossiers>

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