

ROME - The last act of the outgoing Ministry of Health certifies the alarm: synthetic grass fields built in Italy are potentially carcinogenic. The commission set up by Francesco Storace, who was forced to leave the ministry's leadership, had a heated debate a couple of hours yesterday morning and then - unanimously - decided to leave a document-warning to the next Minister of Health.

In that ponderous legacy four things are said to be serious. In the rubber intestine that supports artificial grass, first, there are dangerous quantities, in some cases high peaks and in any case always beyond the established threshold of Ipa (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons harmful to the kidneys, liver and lungs), toluene (highly toxic volatile compound) and heavy metals. So, second information is closing the studies on how these elements can be inhaled by players in field activities, and the first indications of the researchers at the Higher Health Care Institute are concerned: the dust that rises playing balloon is risky.



Third, on the basis of these scientific discoveries, a law on artificial grass fields has to be implemented, nowadays non-existent. Finally, doctors, attorneys at the Department of the Environment and Colonels of the Nas - all members of the commission - advise the next minister to issue an order for the reclamation of dangerous fields.

Professor Roberto Verna, Ordinary of Clinical Pathology of Wisdom in Rome, chairman of the committee, says: "Ipa and toluene are dangerous to health, this is stated. Nas has taken rubber samples in thirteen fields: all companies and all the types of insects have shown problems, we do not want to fear, but we need to find a way to clear the playing fields. be unique. "

To define hazardous areas, the working group has been inspired by public green law and park tables. This document will be sent to FIFA, the World Football Organization, and to the European Union, which has already banned the production of aromatic hydrocarbons since 2007. "This is the first job done in Europe by an independent commission. gums, today, must be treated as with cows: we need to know where the raw material is collected, how it works, how the finished product comes. It requires a product label. "

The president of the National Amateur League, Carlo Tavecchio, manager of the great deal on artificial fields, has already spoken of scrap. "We will have to open at least two hundred soils and aspirate the harmful substances. We will redistribute the costs between Federcalcio, Field Producers and Managers." The company is titanic: every field at eleven has 130 tonnes of insect and costs between 300 and 650 thousand euros. Small and medium-sized companies are in serious difficulty: "We made strong investments when the regulations were temporary and today the municipalities interrupt payments and banks are asking us to return the loans granted."

Around the discovery of the toxicity of the fields is under way, in fact, a tough industrial battle: virgin rubber producers against recyclers, big against small ones. In these hours, for example, the Olympic lawnmowers "made with a mixed natural and artificial herbal product that does not need background", and some companies that have patented cork bottlenecks, have come forward.

The Ministry of Health's commission has also discovered that a good part of the territory's "playgrounds" - the slides and rides in the Italian squares - rests on rubber mats produced by the same companies that supply artificial grass fields and made with the same recycled rubber: Sbr considered at risk. Giovanni Lolli, Under Secretary of the Sport, says: "The problem is serious, this commission has worked with seriousness, the next government will have to reinstate it."