



Recycled rubber infill causes a very low level of concern

ECHA/PR/17/04

ECHA has evaluated the risk of substances in recycled rubber that is used on artificial sports pitches. Based on the evidence, ECHA has concluded that the concern for players on these pitches, including children, and for workers who install and maintain them is very low. ECHA will update its evaluation as and when new information becomes available.

Helsinki, 28 February 2017 – In June 2016, the European Commission asked ECHA to evaluate the risk to the general population, including children, professional players and workers installing or maintaining the pitches.

A number of hazardous substances are present in recycled rubber granules, including polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), metals, phthalates, volatile organic hydrocarbons (VOCs) and semi-volatile organic hydrocarbons (SVOCs). Exposure to these substances through skin contact, ingestion and inhalation was considered.

Based on the information available, ECHA concludes that there is, at most, a very low level of concern from exposure to recycled rubber granules:

- The concern for lifetime cancer risk is very low given the concentrations of PAHs typically measured in European sports grounds.
- The concern from metals is negligible given that the data indicated that the levels are below the limits allowed in the current toys legislation.
- No concerns were identified from the concentrations of phthalates, benzothiazole and methyl isobutyl ketone as these are below the concentrations that would lead to health problems.
- It has been reported that volatile organic compounds emitted from rubber granules in indoor halls might cause irritation to the eyes and skin.

In the studies that ECHA evaluated, which are listed in the report, the concentrations of PAHs in recycled rubber granules were well below the limits set for carcinogenic, mutagenic and reprotoxic (CMR) substances for consumers in REACH.

ECHA has also highlighted several uncertainties in its evaluation. Therefore, ECHA suggests the following action to be taken:

1. Consider changes to the REACH Regulation to ensure that rubber granules are only supplied with very low concentrations of PAHs and any other relevant hazardous substances.
2. Owners and operators of existing (outdoor and indoor) fields should measure the concentrations of PAHs and other substances in the rubber granules used in their fields and make this information available to interested parties in an understandable manner.
3. Producers of rubber granules and their interest organisations should develop guidance to help all manufacturers and importers of (recycled) rubber infill test their material.
4. European sports and football associations and clubs should work with the relevant producers to ensure that information related to the safety of rubber granules in synthetic turfs is communicated in a manner understandable to the players and the general public.
5. Owners and operators of existing indoor fields with rubber granule infills should ensure adequate ventilation.

In addition, ECHA recommends that players using the synthetic pitches should take basic hygiene measures after playing on artificial turf containing recycled rubber granules.

ECHA's evaluation has been sent to the European Commission. The findings are preliminary and will be updated when new information becomes available.

Further information

- ECHA's evaluation on whether recycled rubber filling on artificial sports grounds poses a health risk
- Annexes to the report
- Commission's request to ECHA
- ECHA evaluating whether recycled rubber filling on artificial sports grounds poses a health risk (News item - 8 June 2016)
- Call for evidence

REACH	CLP	BPR	PIC	PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS	INFORMATION ON CHEMICALS	SUPPORT
Understanding REACH	Understanding CLP	Understanding BPR	Understanding PIC			Guidance
Substance Identification	Classification of substances and mixtures	Upcoming deadlines	List of chemicals: Annex I	Public consultations in the authorisation process	Registry of Intentions	Getting started
Registration	Labelling and packaging	Approval of active substances	Export notification procedure	Substances of very high concern identification	Registered substances	Q&As Support
Evaluation	Harmonised classification and labelling (CLH)	Authorisation of biocidal products	Explicit consent requirement	Draft recommendation for inclusion in the Authorisation List and public consultation	ECHA's current activities on restrictions	Testing methods and alternatives
Authorisation	Alternative chemical name in mixtures	Technical equivalence	PIC Legislation		ECHA's completed activities on restriction	Webinars
Restriction	C&L Inventory	In situ generated active substances	Annual reporting on PIC exports and imports	Applications for authorisation consultations	Annex III inventory	Dossier Submission Tools
Communication in the supply chain	Legislation	Annex I amendment	PIC Circular	Consultations on new scientific evidence	Pre-registered substances	National Helpdesks
Candidate List substances in articles	The role of testing in CLP	Product-types	Reporting on information exchange	Testing proposals consultation	EC Inventory	Practical examples of exposure scenarios
Legislation	Enforcement	Active substances and suppliers		Harmonised classification and labelling public consultations	Dossier Evaluation decisions	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)
Enforcement	Substances of potential concern	Treated articles		Submitted restrictions under consideration	PACT	Registration
Substances of potential concern		BPR Legislation		ECHA Executive Director's requests related to the CLH process	Substance evaluation - CoRAP	Practical examples of chemical safety reports
		Data sharing		Current calls for comments and evidence	Information on Candidate List substances in articles table	Substance identification
		Chemical similarity check service			C&L Inventory	Authorisation
					Substances restricted under REACH	Restriction
					Biocidal Active Substances	Submission of CLH dossiers
					Biocidal Products	Socio-economic analysis in REACH
					List of active substances and	QSAR Toolbox
						How to improve your dossier

Public consultation on potential candidates for substitution	suppliers	Mixture classification
Public consultation on derogation to the exclusion criteria	Chemicals subject to PIC	UK withdrawal from the EU
ECHA's Executive Director Requests to the Committees	Transitional Measures	
Harmonised classification and labelling targeted consultations	Information from the Existing Substances Regulation (ESR)	
	PBT/vPvB assessments under the previous EU chemicals legislation	
	Candidate List	
	Submitted recommendations	
	Adopted opinions and previous consultations on applications for authorisation	
	Authorisation List	
	Adopted opinions on restriction proposals	

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