

Extracts from relevant reports on 3G artificial turf
published by overseas authorities

United States

In early 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission launched a multi-agency action plan to study key environmental human health questions. It is mentioned by USEPA that “limited studies have not shown an elevated health risk from playing on fields with tire crumb, but the existing studies do not comprehensively evaluate the concerns about health risks from exposure to tire crumb”.

In January 2017, Washington State Department of Health has released an Investigation of Reported Cancer Among Soccer Players in Washington State, which included cluster investigation of reported soccer players with cancer in Washington. In its conclusion and recommendations, it is stated that “finding does not suggest that soccer players, select and premier soccer players, or goalkeepers in Washington are at increased risk for cancer compared to the general population. In addition, the currently available research on the health effects of artificial turf does not suggest that artificial turf presents a significant public health risk. Assurances of the safety of artificial turf, however, are limited by lack of adequate information on potential toxicity and exposure”.

Canada

In April 2015, Toronto Public Health issued a report of Health Impact Assessment of the Use of Artificial Turf in Toronto, which focused on the use of 3G artificial turf in sports fields.

One of its conclusions mentioned that “available evidence does not indicate that playing on third generation artificial turf will result in exposure to contaminants at levels that pose a significant risk to human health provided it is properly installed and maintained and users follow simple hygienic practices (for example, washing hands, avoiding eating on the artificial field, and removing dust from shoes and clothing before going indoors). While there are still some uncertainties regarding impacts from exposure to some substances found in artificial turf, standard hygienic measures will minimise any of these risks. Under such conditions, and in the cases where use of

natural turf is not possible or practical, the benefits from increased physical activity on fields are expected to outweigh the risks from exposure to toxic substances”.

Europe

In December 2016, Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) mentioned that “new research shows it is safe for people to play sports on synthetic turf fields with an infill of rubber granulate. Rubber granulate contains numerous substances which were found to be released from the granulate in very low quantities. This is because the substances are more or less ‘enclosed’ in the granulate, which means that the effect of these substances on human health is virtually negligible”.

Reference websites:

1. Multi-agency action plan to study key environmental human health questions launched by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission
https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-02/documents/federal_research_action_plan_tirecrumb_final_2.pdf
2. Investigation of Reported Cancer Among Soccer Players in Washington State released by Washington State Department of Health
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Pubs/210-091.pdf>
3. Report of Health Impact Assessment of the Use of Artificial Turf in Toronto issued by Toronto Public Health
http://www1.toronto.ca/City%20Of%20Toronto/Toronto%20Public%20Health/Healthy%20Public%20Policy/Built%20Environment/Files/pdf/H/HIA_on_Artificial_Turf_Summary_Report_Final_2015-04-01.pdf
4. Release by Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM)
http://www.rivm.nl/en/Documents_and_publications/Common_and_Present/News_messages/2016/Playing_sports_on_synthetic_turf_fields_with_rubber_granulate_is_safe