



ESTO WELCOMES COMMISSION CLARIFICATION THAT RUBBER CRUMB USED AS INFILL IN SYNTHETIC PITCHES IS A MIXTURE UNDER REACH

Brussels, 26 May 2016 – The European Synthetic Turf Organisation (ESTO) welcomes the clarification issued by the European Commission confirming that, under the REACH Regulation, rubber crumb used as infill in synthetic pitches is a “mixture” and consequently does not fall within the scope of the current restriction on polycyclic-aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) contained in entry 50(5) Annex XVII, which applies only to “articles”.

This clarification follows the meeting of the Competent Authorities for REACH and the CLP (CARACAL) and the Commission held on 8 March 2016 in Brussels. During that meeting it was discussed whether rubber granules used as infill material in synthetic turf fields, obtained from recycling end-of life tyres, are within the scope of paragraph 5 of entry 50 in Annex XVII to REACH (the restriction concerning PAHs in articles supplied to the general public). It was finally concluded that rubber crumb used as infill in synthetic pitches is a “mixture”.

As a mixture, rubber crumb is therefore not subject to the restriction on PAHs in entry 50(5) Annex XVII but to the general restriction contained in entry 28 of Annex XVII to the REACH Regulation.

ESTO advises municipalities, public bodies and any other buyers of synthetic turf who include rubber crumb infill (or for that matter any type of infill) as part of the synthetic turf to request a letter of conformity from the pertinent supplier confirming that rubber crumb being supplied meets the general limit under entry 28 of Annex XVII to the REACH Regulation.

***The European Synthetic Turf Organisation (ESTO)** is an association formed to ensure quality turf and to provide information that can help clients and end-users find the most appropriate solutions in synthetic turf systems. ESTO is uniquely positioned for research/universities, end users (clubs, leagues, sports governing bodies) and trade. ESTO is an organisation that brings everyone together to discuss, debate, research and develop the future of synthetic turf.*

ESTO is a non-profit organisation and offers neutral and unbiased information for the promotion of synthetic turf, enhancing its numerous advantages and benefits. ESTO is a forum for all parties to meet and to facilitate communication along the business chain, from manufacturers to architects, installers, contractors, test institutes and particularly to the end-users.

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