ESTC Quality guidelines for Landscaping Turfs

Synthetic turf guarantees owners of homes and commercial property a lawn that always looks green and neat, that is free of pesticides and that provides children and pets a surface where they can safely play.

It also allows designers and architects to green walls and indoor environments and to convert balconies and rooftops into a green space where people can relax and bond with nature.

An investment in synthetic turf is a lasting investment that, once installed, should guarantee a low-maintenance experience for decades. This will only be reality when the correct product is selected and when the installation is made by an experienced and high-quality installer.

The EMEA Synthetic Turf Council has defined the following minimum quality levels that synthetic turf products for landscaping applications, should comply with.

Water permeability
150mm/h for products intended to be permeable. (tested in accordance with EN 12616). The permeability should be tested with infill in between the grass blades for products that will be infilled.

Resistance to fire
Any claim of a reaction or resistance to fire shall mean that the product has be tested and classified according to the requirements of EN 13501-1. The resulting class and sub-class will have to be declared.

UV stability
To be tested for 5,000 hours minimum.

Toxicology
To comply with the restrictions regarding the use of hazardous substances, mixtures and articles as defined in table 2, category 3 of EN 71-3 and entry 50 of Annex XVII of the REACH regulations.

Dimensional stability
A maximum shrinkage of ≤ 1.0% and a maximum extension of ≤ 1.0% (to be tested in accordance with ISO 6356) is allowed. Landscaping turf that will not be fully bonded to a substrate or be infilled with granules, must be designed to prevent dimensional expansion.

Tensile strength
≥ 10N/mm in both directions of production (warp and weft). (Measured in accordance with EN ISO 13934-1.)

Tuft retention
≥ 25N tuft withdrawal force of each tuft bundle (measured in accordance with ISO 4919, after water ageing in accordance with EN 13744).

Reporting
The quality of synthetic turf for landscaping needs to be validated by an independent test institute that is recognised by the ESTC. For a product to be approved by the ESTC, the test report needs to reflect the following:

- Reference to this ESTC quality guide
- The brand name of the landscaping turf product
- The manufacturer of the landscaping turf
- The name of the test institute
- Type of manufacturing process used to produce the landscaping turf
- Type of yarn
- Type of primary backing (if applicable)
- Type of secondary backing (if applicable)
- Type of infill (if applicable)
- The individual test results
- Full product identification of all components making up the landscaping turf
- A statement of conformity with this ESTC quality guide
- Details of all results carried forward, including reference to the laboratory that undertook the tests and the test report from which the results were taken
- An indication of which of the tests undertaken is covered by the test institute's ISO 17025 accreditation

ESTC Certified landscaper

The quality and experience of the installer are as important, if not more important, as the quality of the selected product. The ESTC regularly hosts an ESTC Certified Turf Installer-Landscape Program. This course updates participating installers about the latest developments, teaches them more skills and introduces them to the latest tools and materials. Make sure you secure your synthetic turf investment and have it installed by an ESTC approved installer.

The ESTC

The ESTC serves as the forum to promote, develop, grow and advocate for the synthetic turf industry in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. We closely work with the Synthetic Turf Council (STC) in North America and The Organización Latinoamericana de Césped Artificial in South America.

ESTC – EMEA Synthetic Turf Council

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