



CPSC Staff Roundtable

“Understanding the Pending Lead Legislation and the Use of Lead in Consumer Products”

Bethesda, Maryland

May 13, 2008

Rick Doyle, STC President



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About Synthetic Turf Council

- ❑ Founded 2003
- ❑ 75 members
- ❑ The voice of the industry representing a majority of the major manufacturers and installers
- ❑ Resource trusted by owners, athletic directors, and the public for forthright and accurate information, and concern for safety



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STC Objectives

To cooperate with the CPSC to develop:

- ❑ A workable and reasonable standard and phase-in period for lead chromate in the formulation used to make synthetic turf.
- ❑ Clear and objective terminology to describe acceptable or undetectable levels of lead chromate in synthetic turf, e.g., “lead-free” as used to describe lead-free gasoline.

There is no accepted standard or terminology now.



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Lead Chromate in Synthetic Turf – Its Purpose



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An ingredient in the pigment used to color synthetic turf fiber to provide better:

- ☐ Colorfastness
- ☐ UV stabilization
- ☐ Vibrancy



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- ❑ Over 90% of synthetic turf yarns have very low or undetectable levels of lead chromate;
- ❑ Certain specialty colors used lines, logos, etc. may contain lead chromate levels over 3,000 ppm;
- ❑ Industry is currently testing new pigment formulations to continue to reduce lead chromate levels for all of our colors without compromising performance required by buyers.



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Lead Chromate in Synthetic Turf – The Science



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The Chemistry of Lead Chromate

Lead Chromate is NOT Lead Carbonate (which is the soluble lead formerly found in lead paint)

- ☐ Almost completely insoluble
- ☐ Silica-coated
- ☐ Encapsulated in resin
- ☐ Diluted
- ☐ **Extremely low bioavailability – it is not absorbed by the body if ingested or inhaled**



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CDC Lead Prevention Program – '97-'06

- ❑ 763,216 childhood exposures to lead - no risks from synthetic turf
- ❑ 40,000 cases of high blood lead concentrations in children reported in 2006, none attributed to exposure to synthetic turf



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NJ fields with elevated lead levels – test results:

- ☐ No lead in the dust created by the removal of the Ironbound field;
- ☐ No lead in the air or the soil;
- ☐ Normal or below normal blood lead levels in children who played on the field (per Dr. Eddy Bresnitz, Deputy Commissioner, NJDHSS);
- ☐ Test results for bioavailability of lead in field dust samples due by early May.



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Case Study – Joyce Eason

34-yr operator of nylon knitting machine; BLL 1



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Testimonial from the Scientific Community

Davis Lee, Ph.D., synthetic organic chemistry

David Black, Ph.D., forensic toxicology

April 21, 2008

“There is no scientific evidence of a health risk for children or adults based on recent test results and current knowledge of the chemical structure of aged synthetic turf products.”



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Conclusions



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- ❑ The insolubility, double encapsulation, and low bioavailability of lead chromate in synthetic turf are relevant facts that must be part of the public dialogue;
- ❑ **In over 40 years of EPA oversight and OSHA-regulated manufacturing, there is no scientific or medical evidence that synthetic turf poses a human health or environmental risk from lead, rubber, or any other material used in our products.**



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The STC looks forward to cooperating with the CPSC to develop:

- ☐ A workable and reasonable standard and phase-in period for lead chromate in the formulation used to make synthetic turf;
- ☐ Clear and objective terminology to describe acceptable or undetectable levels of lead chromate in synthetic turf, e.g., “lead-free” as used to describe lead-free gasoline.



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Thank you

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