

**U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
LOG OF MEETING**

SUBJECT: Lead in synthetic turf

DATE OF MEETING: September 19, 2008

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Pamela L. Weller

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LOCATION: Room 725, CPSC headquarters

CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Pamela L. Weller, Counselor to Commissioner Moore

NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Walt Sanders, Vice President Law & Government Affairs, Van Fleet Associates, Inc.; Darren Gill (via phone) Director of Marketing, FieldTurf Tarkett

SUMMARY OF MEETING: Mr. Gill gave a brief history of synthetic turf explaining it was introduced in 1964 and was originally made of nylon and was placed like a carpet. His company (which started making synthetic turf in 1994) made synthetic turf that was more like real grass than the original AstroTurf. FieldTurf used a backing with polyethylene blades. Mr. Gill said his company has 3000 fields in North America and has about 65% of the synthetic turf market. He also said that 85% of their business is to high schools and the park and recreation setting.

CPSA 6(b)(1) CLEARED for PUBLIC
 NO MFRS/PRVT LBRS OR PRODUCTS IDENTIFIED 9/30/08
 EXCEPTED BY: PETITION RULEMAKING ADMIN. PRCDG
 WITH PORTIONS REMOVED: _____
MFR/PRV LBR NOTIFIED 9/30/08
COMMENTS: YES NO
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Mr. Gill indicated that the synthetic turf they made prior to 2003 did contain high lead levels, but their current product is lead free. Ms. Weller asked how long their fields lasted and was told eight to ten years. Mr. Gill indicated that his company was trying to get the ASTM International to adopt the strictest voluntary standard possible for the amount of lead allowed in synthetic turf. Mr. Sanders provided a copy of the letter the company had written to ASTM on this issue. Ms. Weller commented that their company had shown that it is possible to make fields that contained NO lead. Mr. Gill said that their scientists had concluded there was no issue with inhalation of lead from playing on these fields. In response to a question from Ms. Weller about whether any of the schools or recreational areas had approached his company about replacing their older fields, he said no one had been asking since the release of the CPSC staff report on testing of synthetic turf and that his company has seen no problems of compliance with the wipe test.

Mr. Gill also said that a natural grass association was spreading misinformation about synthetic turf and was behind some of the lobbying against it. Ms. Weller thanked Mr. Gill for his presentation and the phone call ended.

Mr. Sanders mentioned recent letters from officials in Connecticut about the CPSC staff's testing report and stated that he hoped the agency would reply. Ms. Weller indicated that while the staff's work was fine as far as it went that she agreed with Congresswoman DeLauro's assessment that the agency's press release was overblown and did not accurately portray the staff's rather limited conclusions.

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September 3, 2008

Richard Breland
F08.06 Subcommittee Chairman
Breland Consultant
P.O. Box 71055
Marietta, GA

Re: ASTM WK21006 - New Specification for Maximum Lead Content in Synthetic Turf Fibers

Dear Mr. Breland,

FieldTurf Tarkett would like to voice our position on the Subcommittee's efforts to draft a voluntary standard as it pertains to lead in artificial turf. To that effect, FieldTurf fully intends to pursue an aggressive voluntary standard that would eventually eliminate lead from future turf products.

We are aware that the Subcommittee has developed a draft voluntary standard and will be discussing this draft in a "virtual meeting" scheduled for September 12, and that a proposed voluntary could be balloted and approved as early as November 1. The need for a strong and effective voluntary standard became clear with the recent release of the CPSC staff report on lead in artificial turf and the recent enactment of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008. As you are aware, mandatory lead levels for products intended for children will be set at 600 parts per million (ppm) within 180 days after enactment; 300 ppm within 1 year after enactment; and, 100 ppm, within 3 years after enactment.

Given the fact that it has not yet been determined that artificial turf will be considered a "product intended for children," FieldTurf believes that any voluntary standard should, at a minimum, meet this mandatory standard. Furthermore, states, such as Connecticut, are beginning to enact statutes that would require the complete elimination of lead from products. Based on these circumstances, the Subcommittee should seriously consider a provision in the draft standard, or in a future standard, that would require the elimination of all lead in artificial turf fibers.

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As you are aware, Janice Slaughter currently represents FieldTurf Tarkett as part of the Subcommittee reviewing this draft standard. I ask that the Subcommittee accord Ms. Slaughter's input on behalf of our company serious consideration during the deliberations and discussion of the proposed standard.

You have our full support in the creation of specifications for maximum lead content in synthetic turf fibers.

Regards,



Joe Fields

Cc: Christine Sierk, Manager, ASTM F08.65 Task Group
Phil Stricklen
Martyn R. Shorten, ASTM F08.65 Subcommittee Chairman
Janice Slaughter