



FACT SHEET

Advisory on Potential Exposure to Lead in Artificial Turf Grass

August 2008

Recommendations on Lead Testing of Artificial Turf Fields

Why did the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issue a Health Advisory about lead in artificial turf grass?

A Health Advisory from CDC provides important information for a specific incident or situation, even if no immediate action is required. CDC issued a Health Advisory on June 18, 2008, to announce findings of high levels of lead in some artificial turf material, including older playing fields and consumer products intended for residential use.

What are CDC's recommendations?

- Test only those artificial turf fields that appear worn or weathered (i.e. turf that's broken, faded or abraded, with visible dust)
- Turf access should not be allowed for children under 6 years old if lead dust concentrations exceed 400 ppm

What testing methods should be used?

Based on discussions with the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS):

- The following EPA standard methods are recommended for testing artificial turf:
 - Preparation: SW846-3050B, Hot Block / Acid Digestion
 - Analysis: SW846-6010B, ICP – AES (Inductively Coupled Plasma – Atomic Emission Spectroscopy)
 - Laboratories selected should be certified in these methodologies.
 - One representative composite sample (of approximately 10 grab samples) is likely adequate to determine lead levels in the synthetic turf material, providing turf is one uniform color.
- For dust sample collection, the Standard Practice for Collection of Surface Dust by Micro-vacuum Sampling for Subsequent Metals Determination, ASTM D7144-05a, is recommended.
 - Preliminary analysis indicates that between 10-15 dust samples should be collected to determine the composite lead dust concentration

Effectiveness of wipe sample methods for dust collection has not yet been determined.

When can I expect more information about testing recommendations?

CDC, in collaboration with other public health agencies, is preparing an article for MMWR, which will provide additional information on testing recommendations, including use and interpretation of wipe samples. CDPHE plans to provide additional guidance at that time.

For more information about testing recommendations, please contact Shannon Rossiter, MPH at 303-692-2617 (toll free at 1 (888) 569-1831, extension 2617) or Jane Mitchell at 303-692-2644 (toll free at 1 (888) 569-1831, extension 2644).

Additional information regarding the Health Advisory or the investigation of fields in New Jersey can be found at:

- <http://www2a.cdc.gov/HAN/ArchiveSys/ViewMsgV.asp?AlertNum=00275>
- <http://www.nj.gov/health/artificialturf/>