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An Open Letter concerning the potential cancer risk from certain granulate infills from artificial turf

As you will be aware both FIFA and UEFA have invested substantial resources in recent years in the development of artificial turf to ensure more people, more often have more opportunities to participate in Football at all levels of the game in a safe environment.

Both organisations have both been aware of recent reports that have suggested a potential cancer risk from certain granulate infills from artificial turf.

FIFA and UEFA have investigated this issue and analysed the risk involved. In particular we have reviewed the results of numerous studies into this issue and our findings to date are listed below:

- The list of publications which FIFA and UEFA have scrutinised is given below.
- The studies to date have concluded that “PAHs [Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons] are not released or at most negligibly released from tyre abradate” (The University of Dortmund Institute for Environmental Research 1997). Epidemiological studies conducted by the Health Effects Institute, The World Health Organisation and other investigators do not implicate tyre wear particles in ambient air as contributing to human health effects (respiratory and cardiovascular diseases)
- In general tyre abradate is a much finer particulate than the granules used as infill materials in Football Turf. The research demonstrates that the finer the particles the greater the surface area and higher potential for chemicals to leach out of the rubber.
- The majority of the studies have been on higher surface area particles and have concluded they are currently acceptable. Therefore the larger granules used in artificial turf will have even less potential for emissions. For example a study undertaken by the Danish Ministry of the Environment

concluded that the health risk on children's playgrounds that contained both worn tyres and granulate rubber was insignificant.

The available body of research does not substantiate the assumption that cancer resulting from exposure to SBR granulate infills in artificial turf could potentially occur. For further information of the issue and the risk, please consult the references below.



Prof. Dr. Jiri Dvorak
FIFA

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