



European Synthetic  
Turf Organisation

Brussels, October 5, 2016

## **An Open Letter concerning the potential risk from certain granulate infills from synthetic turf**

The European Synthetic Turf Organisation (ESTO) is the European trade association for synthetic turf with a key focus on all consumer aspects regarding synthetic turf usage, benefits and applications.

The studies mentioned below 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.

For further information of the issue and the risk, please consult the references below.

## References

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