



## PRESS RELEASE

14 April 2008

### **Independent research demonstrates:**

#### ***Rubber granulate can be used safely in artificial turf***

**Rubber granulate made from recycled car tyres can be applied safely in artificial turf, according to a follow-up study into the leaching of zinc into the soil when rubber granulate is used.**

The follow-up study conducted by the research institute INTRON was commissioned by the VACO Association (Tyre and Wheel Trade Organisation) and the Vereniging Band & Milieu (Tyre and the Environment Association, the implementing body for the Car Tyre (Disposal) Decrees). Representatives of the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) and the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (VROM) were also part of the supervisory committee.

The researchers concluded that artificial turf scattered with rubber granulate from recycled car tyres constituted no environmental risk within the boundaries of its usual 10- to 15-year technical lifespan. Zinc leaching from the rubber granulate into the sand base under an artificial field remained below the limits prescribed by the Soil Quality Decree. The Ministry of VROM has invited the sectors in question to submit a proposal for the possibilities for reusing the artificial grass system.

An earlier study had already ruled out any health risks associated with the use of rubber granulate, since the concentrations of heavy metals in rubber granulate met European standards for toys. Inhalation poses no health risk to participants or spectators alike. It is assumed, however, that if rubber granulate is used inside (in sports halls), the area will be sufficiently ventilated. The chance that substances in the in-fill rubber will cause skin irritation to people susceptible to allergic reactions is small.

#### **Research set-up**

Conducted in collaboration with TNO Quality Services, INTRON's research focused on various aspects of rubber granulate use. The research consisted of literature studies, laboratory experiments, measurements on existing artificial fields, test configurations and field research. The results achieved confirm model calculations carried out earlier by the RIVM.

*The Ministry of VROM has approved this press release.*

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#### **VACO Association**

The VACO Association is the trade organisation for the tyre and wheel industry, serving the interests of several hundred tyre and wheel companies throughout the entire production and marketing chain.

#### **Tyre and the Environment Association**

The Tyre and the Environment Association is the association of manufacturers and importers of car tyres and is collectively responsible for the environmentally safe collection and processing of used car tyres.