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Cc: Brooks.Florence@epamail.epa.gov; Doa.Maria@epamail.epa.gov;  
Mosby.Jackie@epamail.epa.gov  
Sent: Fri, 23 May 2008 11:50 am  
Subject: EPA Synthetic Turf Investigation

Dear Ms. Mahoney

Thank you for your letter of May 5, 2008 expressing concern about the health and safety of artificial turf. The Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances (OPPTS) has been asked to respond to your letter.

We share your concern about recent information which suggests that elevated levels of lead may be present in some synthetic turf products.

We are also aware of concerns about the use of “tire crumb”, or shredded recycled tires, in playground surfaces and as a component of synthetic turf. EPA is aware of a number of studies regarding synthetic turf, but there is still considerable uncertainty over the possible exposure to hazardous substances, including lead, from synthetic turf.

As you may know, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has initiated work to evaluate the potential environmental, health and safety hazards associated with artificial turf products. In addition, EPA has recently assembled a group of Agency experts to better understand the nature and extent of potential exposure to hazardous chemicals when children and others come into contact with fields and playgrounds where tire crumb infill is used. We will provide information on thermoplastic elastomer (TPE) infill to the group conducting its investigation.

EPA’s workgroup is in the process of reviewing the published literature, identifying information gaps and data needs, and evaluating the need to generate scoping level monitoring data which may be necessary to model possible childhood exposures. This work will also help EPA determine appropriate next steps, if necessary. EPA will continue to coordinate efforts relating to artificial turf and infill materials with its Federal partners including CPSC and CDC, as well as with the states, as necessary.

Again, thank you for your letter. I hope the information provided is helpful. If you have additional questions, please contact Jackie Mosby of my staff at 202/566-2228.

Sincerely,

Maria J. Doa, Ph.D.  
Director  
National Program Chemicals Division

