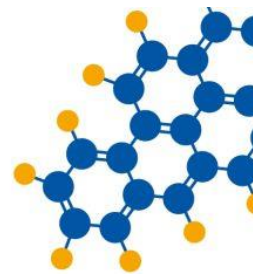


Protecting EU citizens from cancer-causing chemicals



Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are a group of chemicals known to cause cancer. They have also been linked with heart disease and poor fetal development. Some PAHs have high resistance to degradation, are very toxic and accumulate in the environment.

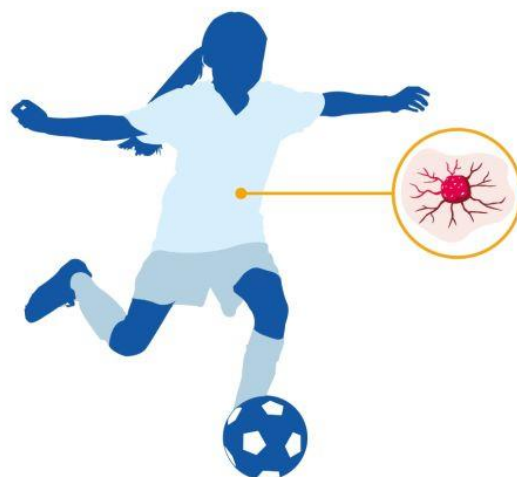


PAHs are present in vehicle tyres. These tyres are often recycled and are re-used as infill on artificial sport pitches and playgrounds to make them more durable, weather-proof and to add shock absorption.

What is the concern?

Exposure to high levels of PAHs on sports pitches and playgrounds could pose health risks to people, especially children.

Samples taken from European pitches indicate that the exposure to PAHs is currently very low. However, a further reduction in their allowed concentration levels is necessary to ensure the cancer risk **remains very low**.



PAHs \leq 20mg/kg



What has the EU done?

From August 2022, the total concentration of the eight PAHs in granules and mulches used as infill can be no more than 20 mg/kg. This reduces the previous legal limits by at least 80 %.

The restriction will make playing on artificial sports pitches and playgrounds **safer**.

Did you know?

Use of rubber granules as infill are subject to further restrictions under ECHA's proposal to restrict intentional uses of microplastics.



Working to limit the use of hazardous chemicals to protect the health of European citizens.

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