

HAB284

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 4183)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Vincent LIU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

Please tabulate the details of testings on toxic material expected to be conducted at each of the artificial turf pitches under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in 2020-21, the number of such testings and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 148)

Reply:

The artificial turf systems (including their rubber infill materials) used in the third generation (3G) artificial turf pitches managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) are in compliance with the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)'s requirements. Similar products are commonly used throughout the world. The relevant national sports associations (the Hong Kong Football Association and Hong Kong Rugby Union) support the use and additional provision of 3G artificial turf pitches.

The 3G artificial turf pitches managed by the LCSD are mainly designed and built by the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD), which requires all contractors to fully comply with the safety requirements of FIFA on the materials used and the work specifications. Contractors are also required to submit an assurance that the sports surface, together with its supporting layers, does not contain in its finished state any substance known to be toxic, mutagenic, teratogenic or carcinogenic when in contact with the skin. Furthermore, no such substances may be released as vapour or dust during normal use. Main contractors/maintenance contractors are required to use products that have been certified by FIFA. Contractors are also required to submit certificates issued by independent accredited institutions on field performance upon the completion of installation.

In addition, the LCSD reviews the maintenance arrangements of artificial turf pitches in collaboration with the ArchSD from time to time, and has also required the maintenance contractors to collect samples of infill granules when delivered on-site for testing by independent accredited testing institutions, so as to ensure that the materials used meet the relevant safety requirements. The test reports have to be returned to venue managers for record.

Since most artificial turf pitches form part of the facilities provided in public leisure venues, the LCSD does not have separate figures on the testing expenditure of individual pitches.

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