



SENBIS
SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS

News Update #iplaygreen - Edition May 2023



GreenFill
Biodegradable grass infill

High-quality polymeric infill, no microplastic pollution

EU-regulations - Update intentionally added microplastics

By the end of 2022 the European Commission (EC) submitted its draft restriction proposal regarding intentionally added microplastics (including polymeric infills for synthetic turf). The proposal has not been approved yet, but the final voting by the European Parliament is expected within the coming three months.

In the draft document polymeric artificial grass infills are still allowed, provided that they are biodegradable. As stated in our previous newsletter, Senbis GreenFill meets the degradation requirements under soil conditions and is TÜV certified for this in accordance with ISO17556. Unfortunately, the proposed restriction also includes strict requirements for degradation in water, which conflicts with the also required long-term functionality of the product at the pitch. In short, if the proposed degradation requirements in water will be implemented, as of approximately 2030 GreenFill will no longer be allowed to be installed in the EU, just like conventional polymeric infills.



However, Senbis continues believing in the added value of the product. For field owners and users who are looking for the benefits of polymeric infills but who want to prevent microplastic pollution, GreenFill is a great alternative. Therefore, as far as Senbis is concerned, this file is far from closed. For example, for agricultural applications, the EC has recently attenuated its biodegradation criteria. We call on the Commission to do the same for synthetic turf infill. Member of European Parliament Jan Huitema has asked questions about this in the European Parliament (see this [link](#)); we will keep you informed of further developments.

First full-size GreenFill competition pitch

Senbis is very proud to announce that the first full-size GreenFill competition football pitch has been installed and has been put into use after formal approval according to the Dutch standards. About 4 years ago the very first (training) field with GreenFill was installed at football club SC Erica in The Netherlands and the club is now also the proud user of the first full-size pitch. Chairman Jan Jeuring: "Our players enjoy playing on GreenFill for four years now, and therefore we preferred GreenFill for the renovation of our fullsize pitch too".

Alderman Pascal Schrik and sports officer Ewe Poeder from the municipality of Emmen, Jan Jeuring from SC Erica, Bas Reinds from Domo Sports and Gerard Nijhoving from Senbis, jointly inspected the pitch at the beginning of 2023 and are all very satisfied with the result. The accommodation of SC Erica is freely accessible to visitors and interested parties are invited to come and see the results with their own eyes. If you plan to do so, please feel free to contact Senbis so we can escort you to the club.



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GreenBlade

Biodegradable grass yarn

High-quality artificial grass, no microplastic pollution and compostable

EU-regulations - Update unintentionally added microplastics

Recently Brussels initiated their preparations for legislation regarding unintentionally added microplastics, also including artificial grass. Anticipating on this, Senbis has developed the product GreenBlade, an artificial turf that is fully recyclable and compostable at the end of its lifetime. Furthermore, fiber wear that ends up in the natural environment will decompose into natural components and will therefore not lead to microplastic pollution. For that reason, Senbis is convinced that we already have an answer to the future European legislation regarding microplastic pollution by artificial grass.

However, European legislation on intentionally added microplastics (e.g. polymeric infills) has been quite radical for the synthetic turf sector; it would be naive to think that the same couldn't happen with unintentionally added microplastics. Artificial turf has increased the accessibility of sports and thus contributes to a healthy society and ensures social cohesion. We should therefore prevent that artificial grass will be completely banned, just like conventional polymeric infills.

Senbis therefore calls on the sector to start working on innovations now and, above all, to start a joint lobby as soon as possible. Furthermore, Senbis is open to cooperation with producers and is looking for municipalities and clubs that are willing to realize pilots with biodegradable artificial grass, so to gain more practical experience and to be able to scale up production.

Grand opening of the world's first biodegradable synthetic turf pitch

At the beginning of this year, a Senbis GreenBlade training pitch was formally opened at football club EHS'85 in The Netherlands, under presence of a.o. politicians and industry. GreenBlade yarn is entirely produced from biodegradable polymers. The concept was developed in collaboration with Sweco, Ten Cate Grass, EdelGrass and Antea. (Former) Chairman Aaltje Bosma: "We have a large number of younger players and we want to offer them the best possible facilities. These facilities should promote sports and exercise, and, on top of that, the products may not have impact on the environment, so the future of our youth will not unnecessarily be affected".



Senbis is currently preparing the commercialization of the product. Should you be interested in a co-operation, please feel free to contact us.