

From: Mark Heinlein [mheinlein@themotzgroup.com]

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To: asigwardt@dolphinstadium.com; Arnol Elam; BBorman@Moeller.org; Bill.Boyle@wv.kyschools.us; cpotts@uaschools.org; dabbelt.d@elderhs.org; Dave Dierker; paulin_d@summitcds.org; Dennis Morrison; dflynn@lasallehs.net; dick.snyder@7hills.org; Dwayne Vincent; glong@springboro.org; Vvhsjniswong@mdeca.org; Jeff C Johnson; Barrej@womingcityschools.org; stollj@sycamoreschools.org; jkimling@madeiracityschools.org; john.nochta@fayette.kyschools.us; jsullivan@stxavier.org; kbrown@loganhocking.k12.oh.us; slaglem@goshenlocalschools.org; mwilson@ntech.edu; mkoenig@kingslocal.k12.oh.us; mguidugli@covcath.org; brannonm@mason.k12.oh.us; mike_dellapina@fc.hamilton-city.k12.oh.us; mitchell.irvin@oldham.kyschools.us; pamela.scott@foresthills.edu; hill_p@nrschools.org; rmpearl@uky.edu; Spencer Cropper; mathews.steve@wintonwoods.org; steve_radcliffe@mail.msj.edu; terry.connor@thomasmore.edu; tom.bean@sugarcreek.k12.oh.us; crosby_t@hccanet.org; TDevolve@RogerBacon.org; tfisher@bellarmine.edu; tom.spritzky@kenton.kyschools.us; themmelg@foresthills.edu; wilking_j@oakhills.hccanet.org

TO: Our Valued Partners and Associates

There is a story in the April 17th edition of USA Today regarding lead contamination in synthetic turf fields. This article follows recent news that the New Jersey Department of Health had shut down three old AstroTurf® fields, because, during routine environmental testing, they detected lead chromate in the fields' nylon fiber (see the attached PDF). It is common knowledge that lead chromate had in the past been used in nylon fiber to provide color fastness, but there is much scientific data supporting the fact that it is encapsulated and essentially non-bioavailable. Nonetheless, the "discovery" has been quite sensationalized by the media.

Regardless of the divergent popular media and scientific opinions surrounding the issue, Joe and I would like you and your community of users to know that it ***does not affect your field***. First, the addition of lead chromate is specific to nylon: none of your fields contain nylon. Second, from our first installation at Mariemont High School to our most recent at Moeller High School, The Motz Group has always use polyethylene yarn that is certified by the fiber manufacturers as being ***heavy metal free***.

We hope this information will put you at ease and provide background in the event any of your constituents have concerns. We are happy to provide the technical scientific data from our fiber manufacturers (Bonar Yarns and Fabrics and Ten Cate USA) if you feel additional information would be helpful.

If you have questions or would like to discuss the matter further, please feel free to contact either Joe or me at any time. Best of luck as you finish out the 2008 school year.

Mark

Mark Heinlein
Senior Vice President



The Motz Group
3607 Church St #300
Cincinnati, OH 45244
(513) 533-6452 t
(513) 678-6709 c
(513) 871-5889 f
mheinlein@themotzgroup.com
www.themotzgroup.com

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