

International Match Standard Laboratory Test Report (2015 edition)

Introduction

In February 2004 the International Football Association Board decided to integrate the 'Field Surface' including artificial turf into the "Laws of the Game". Compulsory testing has been adopted for artificial turf to be used in competition matches between representative teams of National Associations affiliated to FIFA and international club competition matches. The Law I of the Game requires that artificial surfaces (Football Turf) be tested according to a stringent set of requirements and certified to either the FIFA *Quality Concept for Football Turf* or the *International Match Standard (IMS)*.

The FIFA *Quality Programme for Football Turf* and IMS include a series of laboratory tests that are designed to assess performance and durability of the synthetic materials that form the Football Turf and, most importantly, an assessment of individual football fields to ensure they have the playing and performance characteristics players will expect from a facility certified by FIFA. The *International Match Standard* and FIFA QUALITY are technically identical and all the testing procedures and requirements of a FIFA QUALITY certified field also apply to IMS fields.

Official testing to the *International Match Standard* shall only be carried out by independent test institutes accredited by FIFA.

The *International Match Standard* is not a product approval scheme but is the certification that individual football fields have the required playing characteristics and have been constructed from materials of known quality.

This laboratory test report does not confirm or imply FIFA approval of the Football Turf product described within it. FIFA only certify individual fields that have been independently tested and shown to fully satisfy the requirements of the IMS or *FIFA Quality Programme for Football Turf*

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