

New European Standard: EN14904



The expectation is that this year the new European Standard for sports flooring, named EN14904, will be published. The standard has been approved by formal vote so publication should be done before the summer of 2006. This new standard is written to harmonize the test methods and standards and is executed by CEN (Committee for European Normalisation). All CEN-members are obliged to follow this standard once published so implementation before the end of 2006 is the current target. This means that all the European countries and Iceland, Norway and Switzerland are going to use this standard. When the EN14904 is official, the national standard of the members will have to be replaced. Different countries can however use different requirements within the general range. Individual buyers can obviously ask for additional certification, e.g. Sports Governing Bodies (FIBA, IHF, etc) or National Institutions (Marque NF, ISA Sport, DIN Certco etc).

Content EN14904

The EN14904 is divided in two parts. The first part is concerning safety. The second part is for technical requirements. The standard contains definitions, describes test methods and defines the minimum or maximum requirements. Let's take friction as an example: The test method for measuring the friction is described in the standard EN13036-4, the value for approval is determined to be between 80 and 110. This standard is largely equal to the current BS 7044 test for friction.

The conformity of a sports floor covering with the requirements of this European Standard shall be demonstrated by an initial type testing and a factory production control (FPC). Companies that are ISO 9001 certified meet the FPC requirement.

Products meeting the essential characteristics are allowed to use the CE marking. These essential characteristics are: friction, durability, reaction to fire, shock absorbency and the release of dangerous substances.

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For Descol this new standard means that some of the existing Pulastic sports flooring systems have to be tested in accordance with this new standard. Because the standard is not officially published yet, the tests institutes are waiting for the publication of the EN14904. After publication of the standard, we hope to have more information available. A variety of Pulastic systems will be available that meet the EN14904 standard.

We will keep you informed on any further news, but please feel free to contact us if you would like to discuss this topic.

