

### UPDATE New European Standard: EN14904



#### Formal publication

The EN 14904 "Surfaces for Sports Areas – Indoor surfaces for multi-sports use – Specification" was published by CEN in April 2006. National publications in different European countries followed in the months after. Formal implementation of the standard goes at a different pace in the countries that have signed the CEN agreement. The UK seems to be leading the pack with Germany, Austria, France, Scandinavian countries and Holland following closely. By the summer of 2007 all these countries will be working according to the new standard. Obviously the expectation is that all member states will transfer to the EN 14904 in the course of 2007.

#### Major differences

New for most countries are the environmental issues and the fire testing. Further it is no longer sufficient to pass a laboratory test but manufacturers must provide proof of constant quality, so called factory production control.

Descol has finalised the initial environmental tests and the fire testing of different compounds. Further we meet the factory production control requirements with our ISO 9001-2000 certification.

#### Certification programme

We have made an agreement with the Dutch laboratory ISA Sport, which is an accredited laboratory linked to the Netherlands Sports Federation \* Netherlands Olympic Committee, to execute our initial type testing for the formal certification of the current Pulastic sports flooring systems. These certificates will be valid throughout Europe for all EN 14904 criteria.

Pulastic systems fully complying with the EN 14904 will be available according to all classes as per Annex B of the standard. Based on pre-testing we can safely say that all current Pulastic floors with a minimum shock absorption of 25 % will comply and therefore be certified.

Unfortunately testing takes time and there obviously is a peak in the workload of the different labs. We aim to have our certification process finished in the course of the first quarter of 2007.

