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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW ASTM FORCE REDUCTION STANDARD

SALEM, IN December 8th, 2007 – ASTM has long realized the need for sport surfacing standards. Standards have been published specifically for running tracks, tennis courts, football fields and even surfaces used for the sport of fencing. However, indoor court manufacturers, specifically hardwood playing surfaces used extensively for competitive and recreational basketball and volleyball have had to rely on international standards, such as the DIN standards from Germany. ASTM has taken a great stride toward developing meaningful standards for basketball floors with the approval of a new standard method: ASTM F-2569 Standard Test Method for Evaluating the Force Reduction Properties of Surfaces for Athletic Use.

Force reduction has long been used to quantify the performance of sports systems. It's concept originated in a German Standard (DIN 18032-2) and has been used in some capacity in many countries around the globe. Here within North America DIN 18032-2 has achieved a sort of official status even though testing is purely optional. Many architects have been educated in the importance of selecting sports surfaces based on bio-performance features such as force reduction.

The new ASTM standard developed by the F08.52 Subcommittee for Miscellaneous Playing Surfaces was approved by ballot in May of 2007. It provides manufacturers with a method for evaluating the force reduction properties of their products but does not establish minimum or maximum allowable levels. Facilities and architects will be free to specify performance testing according to this method and determine the levels that they feel are appropriate for their specific sport or facility. This new ASTM Standard provide North American architects and owners an alternative to German and European standards which have been developed without input or concerns form North American manufacturers or user groups such as the NBA, NCAA, or high-school associations.

This new force reduction standard, along with the existing ball rebound standard will no doubt become corner stones for a more inclusive indoor court standard. In 2005, ASTM formed a task group under the guidance of F08.52 with the goal of developing a standard specification or guide for Indoor court surfaces (basketball, volleyball, etc). When performance level requirements or recommendations are developed they will be contained in this standard and would be based upon input from global manufacturers, sports surface researchers, and user groups including those based exclusively in North America.

ASET Services, has developed the equipment necessary to conduct the force reduction and ball rebound testing according to ASTM Standards. ASET Services is already working with manufacturers to explore the use and promotion of this new standard within North America.

For more information please call ASET Services at 812.528.2743, e-mail us at info@asetervices.com, or visit www.asetervices.com.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Sample photos may be viewed at: www.asetervices.com/

Sample Photos



Ball Rebound Testing



Deflection Testing