

## Common Performance Terminology: Definitions

*This article defines of some commonly used performance terminology used within the North American gymnasium and indoor sports surface market. It is intended to allow better communication between purchasers/specifiers and manufacturers/suppliers by providing technically correct definitions and explanations.*

This article will define and clarify some common terminology used to describe sports surface performance within North American indoor sport surface market.

### 1. DIN Certified

One of the most common terms is 'DIN Certified'. In terms of accuracy this term should be replaced with the following: "A product meeting the performance levels of DIN 18032-2." The performance levels and accuracy of the tests may be certified by the company that performed the tests within a suitability report.

This term does not mean that DIN itself (the German Standardization body, Deutches Institute Fur Normung) was involved in the testing of the product or certification of the test company. The DIN organization is responsible for the development of standards and is not involved in the testing of products or certification of test labs.

#### 1.1. Suitability Report

Architects and owners should request a suitability report for any system marketed in this performance classification. Suitability reports are only issued to products that meet the requirements within the DIN standard 18032-2. A suitability report is normally 4-6 pages long and should contain all or most of the following:

- written and graphical descriptions of the materials and construction details
- average results for the performance characteristics
- the required performance levels called out within DIN 18032-2
- graphical representation of the location of each test point

- written description of the construction details present at each test point
- performance results for each test point
- statement verifying the authenticity of the data and results signed by a member of the test lab

The results contained within the suitability report represent the performance of a sample, and do not guarantee the performance levels of individual installations. Field testing of the installed surface is the only way to verify that the finished product meets the requirements of DIN 18032-2.

### 2. DIN Tested

'DIN Tested' is another term used within the sports surfacing industry. In terms of accuracy this term should be replaced with the following definition: "A product that has been tested according to DIN 18032-2."

Products in this category fail to meet at least one of the requirements called out in the DIN standard. Products that have been tested but failed to pass even a single requirement of the standard could also be included within the category. This term should not be interpreted to mean that the DIN organization itself has been involved in the testing of the product. This is incorrect for the same reasons outlined in the explanation 'DIN Certified'.

#### 2.1. Performance Report

Architects and owners should request a performance report from an independent testing company for the systems within this category. A performance report can range from a 2-3 page document to something as simple as a data sheet including the name of the product.

ASET Services includes the following in its performance reports:

- written description of the materials and construction details
- average results (for the parameters of interest)
- written description of the construction present at each test point
- performance results for each test point

Because system and product names change, ASET Services feels that it is critical that a performance report contain at least a written description of the materials and construction of the system to help ensure that the report is for the system in question.

Again, performance reports indicate the performance of a single sample and are not a guarantee that the individual installations will produce the same results. When performance levels are used within project specifications, field testing of the installed surface is the only way to verify that the installation's performance complies with those in the specification.

### **3. Conclusions**

The DIN organization is involved in the development of standards not in the testing of products and not in the certification of testing companies. When 'DIN' is used in marketing of indoor sports surfaces within North America it generally means that the surface was tested using a DIN (German) standard.

'DIN Certified' products would be more accurately described as 'A product meeting the performance levels of DIN 18032-2'. 'DIN Tested' products would be accurately describes as 'A product that has been tested according to DIN 18032-2'.

Regardless of the product performance terminology used, testing of individual samples is not a guarantee of the performance of individual installations. When performance levels used within project specifications, field testing of the finished installation is the only way to verify that the installed product offers performance comparable to the results on small samples.

### **4. DIN 18032-2 and Safety**

At this time no study or publication has been found that links a sports surface's compliance with this standard, or any other standard, to a reduction in injuries. There are no guarantees that a system meeting any or all of the requirements of the DIN standard will reduce injuries.

Specifiers should consider this standard an indicator of athlete comfort not an indicator of athlete safety.

*This publication is provided by ASET Services, Inc. ASET Services is committed to providing engineering and testing services to the sports surfacing industry. For further information contact ASET Services through one of the following methods:*

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