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26 November 2015

Hon. Starry LEE Wai-king, JP  
Chairman, Panel on Home Affairs  
Room 814, Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms LEE,

**Quality of Turf in Sports Ground of LCSD**

I refer to the letter of 9 November 2015 from Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok to the Chairman requesting a discussion of the captioned subject in the meeting of the Panel on Home Affairs and we would like to respond as follows-

To enhance the quality of turf in sports grounds managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, the Department has procured high quality quartz sand which can drain excessive water more effectively for top dressing. Since May 2014, this Department has started using quartz sand as top dressing material for natural turf pitches. Besides, according to the contractual requirement, the supplier, when delivering the quartz sand, is required to provide test certificate to prove that the quartz sand supplied comply with the specifications. In view of such arrangement, a briefing on the inspection and acceptance of quartz sand was conducted prior to the commencement of the contract for our front-line staff so that they could understand clearly the procedures to be followed. Our venue staff should adhere to the procedures to inspect and accept the sand. In case the staff finds that the quartz sand does not comply with the specifications, the goods will be rejected. Since the commencement of the contract, this department has not received any report on such non-compliance. The specifications of quartz sand and

procedures to inspect and accept quartz sand are at Annex I and II respectively for reference.

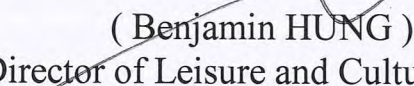
The quartz sand is mainly used as the top dressing material for the upper layer of the turf. This Department has once discovered tiny quantity of shell fragments in individual turf pitches. We believe that such impurities might have been unearthed from the underlying soil layer of the natural turf pitches by players when they were playing ball games thereat. On spotting such situation, our venue staff would remove these objects immediately so as to ensure the safety of athletes.

Furthermore, this Department has set up the Sports Turf Management Section in May 2014 to provide professional advice and technical support for the management and maintenance of natural turf pitches. The Department also provides skilled workers and equipment to facilitate turf maintenance work. In addition, training courses, both local and overseas, have been provided for staff to equip them with the requisite skill and knowledge in turf management and maintenance.

Through the implementation of above measures, we have seen the gradual improvement of the quality of the turf pitches.

Should you have any other suggestions or enquiries, please contact me on Tel : 2601 8881.

Yours sincerely,

  
( Benjamin HUNG )  
for Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

### Specifications of Quartz Sand

1. It shall be intended for the top-dressing use of utility and sports turf, the re-filling of sand boxes at sports grounds and beach volley ball courts;
2. It shall be free from impurities and unwanted substances such as shells, metals, nails, glasses, grass or weed growth of any kind, sticky clay, salt, sharp grits, stones and sharp foreign objects, etc.;
3. It shall be greyish-white in colour and free from salts with the total soluble salts content less than 0.1 %;
4. The size of the sand shall range from 0.1 mm to 1 mm in diameter. The acceptable ranges of particle sizes shall be as follows; and

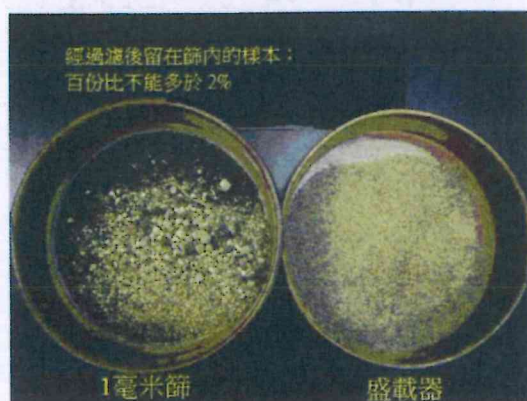
	<b><u>Particle Size (in diameter)</u></b>	<b><u>Acceptable Limits (by weight)</u></b>
(i)	< 0.1 mm	≤ 3 %
(ii)	0.1 mm – 1 mm	≥ 95 %
(iii)	> 1 mm	≤ 2 %
(No particle shall be over 2 mm in diameter)		

5. It shall be subject to the on-site acceptance test conducted by the Government Representative. If the Goods fail to meet the clauses 2 to 4 of the said Specifications, the Contractor shall remove the same at its own expenses and re-arrange the delivery of sand within one (1) week or within a reasonable grace period as accepted and approved by the Government Representative. If the Contractor is unable to do so, it shall be treated as a breach of the Contract.

## 驗收石英沙的程序

場地主管驗收石英沙的程序如下：

1. 檢查石英沙是否有雜質，例如貝殼、碎石、鐵碎、玻璃碎等。
2. 用花釗在沙堆的表面、中間及底部分別取樣本各一，然後合併為一個總樣本及衡量其總重量作計算基數。
3. 用「1 毫米篩」過濾樣本 - 石英沙仍留在篩內及找出其所佔樣本的重量百份比，此百分比不能多於 2%，而個別剩餘物的直徑亦不能超過 2 毫米。



4. 如樣本能通過上述的檢證，場地主管可收取由承辦商送來的石英沙，否則要求承辦商根據有關合約條文重新提供新一批石英沙。