

BS EN 14877:2013



BSI Standards Publication

# Synthetic surfaces for outdoor sports areas — Specification

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**National foreword**

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN 14877:2013. It supersedes BS EN 14877:2006 which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee PRI/57, Surfaces for sports areas.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

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## Synthetic surfaces for outdoor sports areas - Specification

Revêtements synthétiques pour terrains de sport en plein  
air - SpécificationKunststoffflächen auf Sportanlagen im Freien -  
Anforderungen

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 25 July 2013.

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<b>Contents</b>		<b>Page</b>
<b>Foreword</b> .....		<b>3</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Scope</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Normative references</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Terms and definitions</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Laboratory test requirements</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Facility tests</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>Annex A (informative) Examples of surfacing and fields of application</b> .....		<b>19</b>
<b>Annex B (normative) Preparation of wet test pieces</b> .....		<b>20</b>
<b>Bibliography</b> .....		<b>21</b>

## **Foreword**

This document (EN 14877:2013) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 217 "Surfaces for sports areas", the secretariat of which is held by BSI.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by March 2014, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by March 2014.

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This document supersedes EN 14877:2006.

Compared with EN 14877:2006, the text has been clarified and editorial errors have been corrected.

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## 1 Scope

This European Standard specifies the requirements for synthetic (polymeric) surfaces (installed *in situ* and prefabricated) for outdoor sports facilities. It covers synthetic surfaces for the following applications:

- athletics, track and field;
- tennis;
- multi-sports.

The European Standard has two parts. The first describes the requirements for the testing of products in the laboratory to ensure they are capable of providing the required levels of sports performance and player/surface interaction required for their intended use and that they are manufactured from materials of acceptable quality. The second section describes the requirements for installed surfaces to ensure that the sports performance and player/surface interaction properties are suitable for the intended use.

When independent third party testing of synthetic sports surfaces is required to assess compliance with this standard, it is recommended the laboratory is certified to EN ISO/IEC 17025 for the relevant test methods specified in this standard.

NOTE 1 Examples of types of surface and their fields of application are given in Annex A.

NOTE 2 'Multi-sports' will be defined by appropriate national provisions.

NOTE 3 Minimum requirements for the thickness of the synthetic sports surface are specified which means that this European Standard is not applicable to certain coatings used for sports surfaces.

This European Standard is not designed to cover the performance requirements of top-level athletics facilities; these should follow the requirements of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF).

NOTE 4 This European Standard does not include requirements for synthetic turf surfaces; these are specified in EN 15330-1.

## 2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EN 1969, *Surfaces for sports areas — Determination of thickness of synthetic sports surfaces*

EN 12230, *Surfaces for sports areas — Determination of tensile properties of synthetic sports surfaces*

EN 12235, *Surfaces for sports areas — Determination of vertical ball behaviour*

EN 12616, *Surfaces for sports areas — Determination of water infiltration rate*

EN 13036-4, *Road and airfield surface characteristics — Test methods — Part 4: Method for measurement of slip/skid resistance of a surface: The pendulum test*

EN 13036-7, *Road and airfield surface characteristics — Test methods — Part 7: Irregularity measurement of pavement courses : the straightedge test*

EN 13744, *Surfaces for sports areas — Procedure for accelerated ageing by immersion in hot water*

EN 13817, *Surfaces for sports areas — Procedure for accelerated ageing by exposure to hot air*

EN 13865, *Surfaces for sports areas — Determination of angled ball behaviour - Tennis*

EN 14808, *Surfaces for sports areas — Determination of shock absorption*

EN 14809, *Surfaces for sports areas — Determination of vertical deformation*

EN 14810, *Surfaces for sports areas — Determination of spike resistance*

EN 14836, *Synthetic surfaces for outdoor sports areas — Exposure to artificial weathering*

EN ISO 5470-1, *Rubber- or plastics-coated fabrics — Determination of abrasion resistance — Part 1: Taber abrader (ISO 5470-1)*

EN ISO 20105-A02, *Textiles — Tests for colour fastness — Part A02: Grey scale for assessing change in colour (ISO 105-A02)*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

#### 3.1

##### **multi-sports facilities**

facilities where more than one sport is played on the surface

Note 1 to entry: These facilities normally enable sports such as handball, basketball, volleyball and small-sided football to be played, and they can also be used for physical education and many other sporting activities.

### 4 Laboratory test requirements

**4.1** Synthetic surfaces intended for athletic facilities shall satisfy the requirements of Table 1.

**4.2** Synthetic surfaces intended for tennis facilities shall satisfy the requirements of Table 2.

**4.3** Synthetic surfaces intended for multi-sports facilities shall satisfy the requirements of Table 3. If multi-sports areas are to include athletics activities involving the use of athletics running spikes, the synthetic surfacing shall also satisfy the requirements of Table 1, 1.2.5 – Spike Resistance.

**4.4** Wet test specimens shall be prepared using the procedure detailed in Annex B.

**4.5** Shock Absorption and Vertical Deformation measurements shall be made in three positions each at least 100 mm apart and the mean result calculated.

**4.6** Slip Resistance shall be measured in at least two directions at 90° to each other.

Table 1 — Laboratory test requirements for synthetic surfaces intended for athletics facilities

Property	Test method	Test Condition	Requirement
<b>Sports performance</b>			
1.1			
1.1.1	EN 13036-4 (CEN rubber)	(23 ± 2) °C Dry Wet	80 to 110 55 to 110
1.1.2	EN 14808	(10 ± 2) °C (23 ± 2) °C (40 ± 2) °C Dry After accelerated ageing by exposure to hot air in accordance with EN 13817, and immediately followed by immersion in hot water in accordance with EN 13744. The Shock Absorption to be measured between 24 h and 36 h following removal at a laboratory temperature of (23 ± 2) °C.	Force Reduction 25 % to 34 % SA 25 to 34 35 % to 50 % SA 35 to 50 The performance of the surface shall be classified by the lowest result obtained under any of the test conditions.
1.1.3	EN 14809	(10 ± 2) °C (23 ± 2) °C (40 ± 2) °C Dry	≤ 3 mm
1.2	<b>Material characteristics</b>		
1.2.1	EN 12616	(23 ± 2) °C —	≥ 150 mm/h
1.2.2	EN ISO 5470-1 using H18 abrasive wheels and a (1 ± 0,001) kg load at 60 hz/min	(23 ± 2) °C Unaged After artificial weathering in accordance with EN 14836.	Mass loss between 500 and 1 500 cycles shall be less than 4,0 g.
1.2.3	EN ISO 20105-A02	After artificial weathering in accordance with EN 14836.	Colour fastness shall be no less than grey scale 3.



1.2.4	Tensile properties	EN 12230	<p>Unaged</p> <p>After accelerated ageing by exposure to hot air in accordance with EN 13817, immediately followed by immersion in hot water in accordance with EN 13744. The maximum tensile strength to be measured between 24 h and 36 h following removal at a laboratory temperature of <math>(23 \pm 2) ^\circ\text{C}</math>.</p>	Tensile strength	$\geq 0,4 \text{ MPa}$
				Elongation at break	$\geq 40 \%$
1.2.5	Spike Resistance	EN 14810	<p>Following spike abrasion.</p> <p>After accelerated ageing by exposure to hot air in accordance with EN 13817, immediately followed by immersion in hot water in accordance with EN 13744.</p>	The change in tensile strength and elongation at break compared to a new sample, when tested in accordance with EN 12230, shall not differ by more than 20 % of the unaged values and shall not be less than the values detailed in 1.2.4.	
				$\geq 10 \text{ mm}$	
1.2.6	Absolute Thickness	EN 1969 (method A)	$(23 \pm 2) ^\circ\text{C}$		

Table 2 — Laboratory test requirements for synthetic surfaces intended for tennis facilities

Property	Test method	Test Condition		Requirement
2.1	<b>Sports performance</b>			
2.1.1	Friction	EN 13036-4 (CEN rubber)	(23 ± 2) °C	80 to 110 55 to 110
			Dry Wet	
2.1.2	Shock Absorption	EN 14808	(23 ± 2) °C	Force Reduction Classification
			After accelerated ageing by exposure to hot air in accordance with EN 13817, immediately followed by immersion in hot water in accordance with EN 13744. The Shock Absorption to be measured between 24 h and 36 h following removal at a laboratory temperature of (23 ± 2) °C.	11 % to 19 % SA 11 to 19
				20 % to 30 % SA 20 to 30
				> 31 % SA 31+
				The performance of the surface shall be classified by the lowest result obtained under any of the test conditions.
2.1.3	Vertical Deformation	EN 14809	(23 ± 2) °C	≤ 3 mm
2.1.4	Vertical ball rebound	EN 12235 using a tennis ball	(23 ± 2) °C	≥ 85 % (≥ 1,19 m)
2.1.5	Angle ball behaviour (surface pace)	EN 13865	(23 ± 2) °C	Tennis coefficient Classification
				≤ 29 Slow
				30 to 34 Medium slow
				35 to 40 Medium
				41 to 45 Medium fast
				> 45 Fast

2.2 Material characteristics			
2.2.1	Water permeability	EN 12616	(23 ± 2) °C —
2.2.2	Resistance to wear	EN ISO 5470-1 using H18 abrasive wheels and a (1 ± 0,001) kg load at 60 hz/min	Unaged at (23 ± 2) °C After artificial weathering in accordance with EN 14836.
2.2.3	Colour loss	EN ISO 20105-A02	After artificial weathering in accordance with EN 14836. Unaged at (23 ± 2) °C
2.2.4	Tensile properties	EN 12230	After accelerated ageing by exposure to hot air in accordance with EN 13817, immediately followed by immersion in hot water in accordance with EN 13744. Tensile strength to be measured between 24 h and 36 h following removal at a laboratory temperature of (23 ± 2) °C.
2.2.5	Absolute Thickness	EN 1969 (method A)	(23 ± 2) °C

≥ 150 mm/h	Mass loss between (500 and 1 500) cycles shall be less than 4,0 g.	Colour fastness shall be no less than grey scale 3.
≥ 0,4 MPa	Tensile strength	
≥ 40 %	Elongation at break	
≥ 7 mm		

Table 3 — Synthetic surfaces intended for multi-sports facilities

Property	Test method	Test Condition		Requirement
<b>3.1 Sports performance</b>				
3.1.1	EN 13036-4 (CEN rubber)	(23 ± 2) °C	Dry Wet	80 to 110 55 to 110
3.1.2	EN 14808	(23 ± 2) °C	Dry	Force Reduction 25 % to 34 %
		After accelerated ageing by exposure to hot air in accordance with EN 13817, immediately followed by immersion in hot water in accordance with EN 13744.		35 % to 44 %
		Shock Absorption to be measured between 24 and 36 h following removal at a laboratory temperature of (23 ± 2) °C.		45 % to 70 %
3.1.3	EN 14809	(23 ± 2) °C	Dry	≤ 6 mm
3.1.4	EN 12235 using a basketball	(23 ± 2) °C	Dry	≥ 85 % (≥ 0,89 m)
<b>3.2 Material characteristics</b>				
3.2.1	EN 12616	(23 ± 2) °C	—	≥ 150 mm/h
3.2.2	EN ISO 5470-1 using H18 abrasive wheels and a (1 ± 0,001) kg load at 60 hz/min	(23 ± 2) °C	Unaged	Mass loss between 500 and 1 500 cycles shall be less than 4,0 g
		After artificial weathering in accordance with EN 14836		
3.2.3	EN ISO 20105-A02	After artificial weathering in accordance with EN 14836		Colour fastness shall be no less than grey scale 3

3.2.4	Tensile properties	EN 12230	Unaged at $(23 \pm 2) ^\circ\text{C}$	Tensile strength	$\geq 0,4 \text{ MPa}$
		<p>After accelerated ageing by exposure to hot air in accordance with EN 13817, immediately followed by immersion in hot water in accordance with EN 13744. Maximum tensile strength to be measured between 24 h and 36 h following removal at a laboratory temperature of <math>(23 \pm 2) ^\circ\text{C}</math>.</p>		Elongation at break	$\geq 40 \%$
3.2.5	Absolute Thickness	EN 1969 (method A)	$(23 \pm 2) ^\circ\text{C}$	$\geq 7 \text{ mm}$	

#### **4.7 Test report**

The test report shall contain the following information:

- a) number and date of this European Standard, i.e. EN 14877:2013;
- b) manufacturer's or supplier's product name or product code;
- c) complete description of the surface tested, together with the supporting layers, and in-fill used;
- d) results of the tests relevant to the type of surface being tested; and
- e) statement of compliance or failure for each property measured;
- f) details of any properties not measured that are applicable for the type of surface tested.

### **5 Facility tests**

#### **5.1 General**

Following installation, synthetic sports surfacing shall satisfy the requirements of 5.2, 5.3 or 5.4 as appropriate for the intended sports applications.

Wet test areas shall be prepared using the procedure detailed in Annex B, as required.

The performance of synthetic surfacing will change as the surface is used and ages due to weathering, etc. The degree of change permitted during the life of a synthetic sports surface shall be agreed between the surface manufacturer/supplier and the facility owner/operator. Where no agreement is detailed, it may be assumed the performance requirements of this standard continue to apply.

#### **5.2 Athletics**

When tested within the temperature range 10 °C to 40 °C using the methods detailed below, athletics facilities shall satisfy the performance requirements of Table 4.

Table 4 — Performance requirements for athletics facilities

Property	Test method		Specified range	
Thickness	EN 1969		$\geq 10$ mm <sup>a, b</sup>	
Shock absorption	EN 14808		SA 25 to 34 SA 35 to 50 As appropriate for selected surface	
			All test positions shall also be within $\pm 5$ % Force Reduction of the mean value calculated from all test positions.	
Vertical Deformation	EN 14809		$\leq 3$ mm	
Slip resistance	EN 13036–4 (CEN rubber)		Dry surface	80 to 110
			Wet surface	55 to 110
			All test positions shall also be within $\pm 5$ points of the mean value calculated from all test positions.	
Surface regularity	EN 13036–7	4 m straight edge	Target requirement	$\leq 6$ mm
			Maximum size of any permitted deviations	8 mm
			Maximum number of permitted deviations $> 6$ mm $\leq 8$ mm	4
		0,3 m straight edge	Requirement	$\leq 2$ mm
			Maximum size of any permitted deviations	0
			Maximum number of permitted deviations	0
<p><sup>a</sup> The absolute thickness of the installed surface should nowhere differ by more than 3 mm from the thickness at which a type approval test was carried out.</p> <p><sup>b</sup> Areas used for long/triple jump run up, pole vault, javelin, high jump take-off areas, water jump landing areas should be of increased thickness or reinforced construction.</p>				

At least one measurement shall be made for every 500 m<sup>2</sup> of normal thickness synthetic surface, with a minimum of twelve (12) measurements over the facility. The test positions shall be as follows:

- 1) at the discretion of the test laboratory in any lane around the first radius;
- 2) in the centre of lane 2 at the 130 m mark on the back straight;
- 3) in the centre of lane 5 at the 160 m mark on the back straight;
- 4) at the position of lowest thickness on the back straight;
- 5) at the discretion of the test laboratory in any lane around the final radius;
- 6) in the centre of lane 1 at the 320 m mark on the main straight;
- 7) in the centre of lane 4 at the 350 m mark on the main straight;

- 8) in the centre of the outer lane at the 390 m mark on the main straight;
- 9) at the position of lowest thickness on the main straight;
- 10) at the discretion of the test laboratory at any position (except the high-jump take-off point) over the semi-circular area; where there are two semi-circular areas, a test shall be performed on each of them;
- 11) at the discretion of the test laboratory at any position (except the reinforced areas) on each of the runways (long jump/triple jump, pole vault, javelin) and in the steeplechase lane.

### **5.3 Tennis**

When tested within the temperature range 10 °C to 40 °C using the methods detailed below, tennis facilities shall satisfy the performance requirements of Table 5.



Table 5 — Performance requirements for tennis facilities

Property	Test method		Specified range	
Thickness	EN 1969		$\geq 7$ mm <sup>a</sup>	
Shock absorption	EN 14808		SA 11 to 19 SA 20 to 30 SA $\geq 31+$ As appropriate for the selected surface	
			All test positions shall also be within $\pm 5$ % Force Reduction of the mean value calculated from all test positions.	
Vertical Deformation	EN 14809		$\leq 3$ mm	
Slip resistance	EN 13036–4 (CEN rubber)		Dry	80 to 110
			Wet	55 to 110
			All test positions shall also be within $\pm 5$ points of the mean value calculated from all test positions.	
Vertical tennis ball rebound	EN 12235		$\geq 85$ % ( $\geq 1,19$ m)	
Angle ball rebound (dry)	EN 13865		Slow $\leq 29$ Medium Slow 30 to 34 Medium 35 to 39 Medium Fast 40 to 44 Fast $\geq 45$ As appropriate for selected surface	
			All test positions shall also be within $\pm 5$ of the mean value calculated from all test positions.	
Surface regularity	EN 13036–7	3 m straight edge	Target requirement	$\leq 6$ mm
			Maximum size of any permitted deviations	8 mm
			Maximum number of permitted deviations $> 6$ mm $\leq 8$ mm	4
		0,3 m straight edge	Requirement	$\leq 2$ mm
			Maximum size of any permitted deviations	0
			Maximum number of permitted deviations	0
<sup>a</sup> The absolute thickness of the installed surface should not differ by more than 3 mm from the thickness at which a type approval test was carried out.				

Tennis courts should be tested in the positions shown in Figure 1. Angle ball and vertical rebound is not measured in position 4. If blocks of multiple courts are being assessed, it is not normally necessary to test each court. Typically one court in three should be tested, that court being selected by agreement between all interested parties.

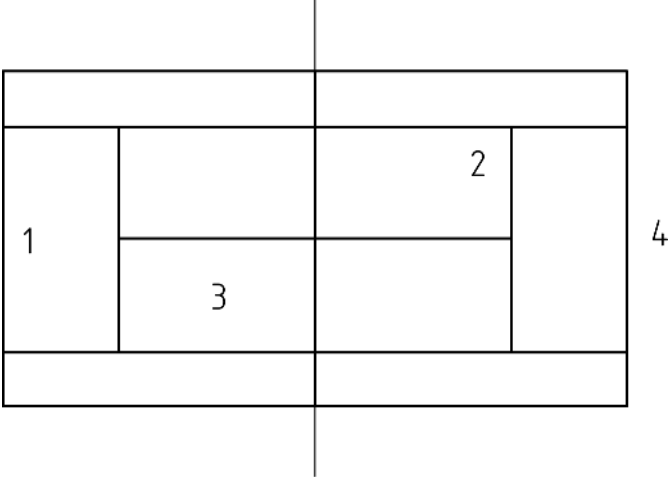


Figure 1 — Tennis court tests positions

**5.4 Multi-sports**

When tested within the temperature range 10 °C to 40 °C using the methods detailed below, multi-sports facilities shall satisfy the performance requirements of Table 6.

**Table 6 — Performance requirements for multi-sports facilities**

Property	Test method		Specified range	
Thickness	EN 1969		$\geq 7 \text{ mm}^a$	
Shock absorption	EN 14808		SA 25 to SA 34 SA 35 to 44 SA 45 to 70 As appropriate for selected surface	
			All test positions shall also be within $\pm 5 \%$ Force Reduction of the mean value calculated from all test positions.	
Vertical Deformation	EN 14809		$\leq 6 \text{ mm}$	
Slip resistance	EN 13036–4 (CEN rubber)		Dry	80 to 110
			Wet	55 to 110
			All test positions shall also be within $\pm 5$ points of the mean value calculated from all test positions.	
Vertical basketball rebound	EN 12235		$\geq 85 \%$ ( $\geq 0,89 \text{ m}$ )	
Surface regularity	EN 13036–4	3 m straight edge	Target requirement	$\leq 6 \text{ mm}$
			Maximum size of any permitted deviations	8 mm
			Maximum number of permitted deviations $> 6 \text{ mm} \leq 8 \text{ mm}$	4
		0,3 m straight edge	Requirement	$\leq 2 \text{ mm}$
			Maximum size of any permitted deviations	0
			Maximum number of permitted deviations	0
<sup>a</sup> The thickness of the installed surface should not differ by more than 3 mm from the thickness at which a type approval test was carried out.				

At least five measurements shall be made for every 1 000 m<sup>2</sup> of synthetic surface. Test locations shall be selected to represent areas of high, medium and low use.

### 5.5 Test report

The test report shall contain the following information:







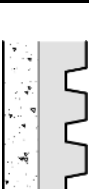
- a) number and date of this European Standard, i.e. EN 14877:2013;
- b) manufacturer's or supplier's product name or product code;
- c) complete description of the surface tested;
- d) the name and location of the facility tested;

- e) the surface condition (dry or wet), and the maximum and minimum ambient and surface temperatures at the time of test;
- f) the date of installation;
- g) results of the tests relevant to the type of surface being tested;
- h) statement of compliance or failure for each property measured;
- i) details of any properties not measured that are applicable for the type of surface tested.

**Annex A**  
(informative)

**Examples of surfacing and fields of application**

**Table A.1 — Examples of surfacing and fields of application**

	Permeable construction				Non-permeable construction		
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
<b>Design</b>	 Figure A.1	 Figure A.2	 Figure A.3	 Figure A.4	 Figure A.5	 Figure A.6	 Figure A.7
<b>Designation</b>	texture coated surfacing	porous coated surfacing	porous one-layer surfacing	cast coated surfacing	cast multi-layer (solid synthetic surfacing)	cast surfacing (solid synthetic surfacing)	calendared vulcanized, prefabricated sheets
<b>Surface</b>	granular texture	granules flat	granules flat	strewn-in granules with visible tips			embossed texture
<b>Top layer (coloured)</b>	rubber granules and elastomer, sprayed	rubber granules and elastomer, poured <i>in situ</i> or prefabricated	rubber granules and elastomer, trowelled <i>in situ</i> or prefabricated	elastomer cast and rubber granules strewn-in			calendared vulcanized, differentiated layers of rubber compound
<b>Base layer</b>	rubber granules/fibres and elastomer, poured out <i>in situ</i> or prefabricated	—	—	rubber granules and elastomer, cast	—	—	a top layer
<b>Typical areas of application</b>	athletics tracks and run up tracks, multi-sports	multi-use areas, tennis courts and running/run-up tracks (school sports and combined facilities)	multi-sports	athletics tracks, run-up tracks			athletics tracks, run-up tracks, tennis courts

## **Annex B** (normative)

### **Preparation of wet test pieces**

Wet test pieces shall be prepared by evenly applying a volume of water that thoroughly soaks the test piece (if in doubt, this should be equal to the volume of the test piece). Following wetting, the test piece shall be allowed to drain for 15 min and the test carried out immediately after.

## Bibliography

- [1] EN 15330-1, *Surfaces for sports areas — Synthetic turf and needle-punched surfaces primarily designed for outdoor use — Part 1: Specification for synthetic turf*
- [2] EN ISO/IEC 17025, *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025)*







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