

Labosport Fiber Performance Index in 10 questions

1 – Why a Fiber Performance Index? Today, architects, municipalities and parks & recreations have the choice between an ever-increasing number of artificial turf systems for sports and landscaping applications. In order to support their decision process, we propose to measure objectively fibers and tufted carpets.

2 – Why these four dimensions? These are characteristics most frequently sought out by project owners. The tests reflect our current knowledge and offer a complement to existing tests used by national norms or sports federation standards. For instance, the “cross tenacity” test (Tear) is a complement to already existing tests on durability: this test focuses on fiber’s strength and reflects usage of high-performance resins and good reticulation of polymers chains.

3 – How do you calculate individual scores (0-100)? At Labosport, we have been testing fibers and systems for more than 20 years from all over the world; therefore, we possess a good database of performance data. Scores of 100 correspond to top-performing products on the market. Scores are either directly derived from an objective physical measurement (force, return to position, tensile strength before and after UV) or from panel ranking on a pre-established physical scale, for Feel (0: most abrasive, 100: softest product).

4 – How do you calculate the overall score? The overall FPI score is a weighted average of the four individual scores. Tear and UV weight more than Feel and Resilience to reflect the fact that durability is the first concern for most owners.

5 – Which score is the most important, the overall one? Yes and no. The overall score gives you an indication of the overall fiber performance. However, the FPI allows you to base your decision on individual scores that match the most your specific preferences. For instance, you may pay attention to the UV score if your location is in a demanding climate zone, such as Phoenix, Arizona.

6 – Does the FPI assess just the fiber or the full system? The FPI focuses on the fiber and quality control at the manufacturer’s level. It does not measure how the complete installed system (fiber + infill) will perform, which will depend on many other factors and, in particular, quality of installation. As such, it is a complement to national norms, international sports standards and labels rewarding the quality of installing companies. Therefore, we do not recommend that the FPI forms the sole basis for your purchase decision. Instead, this is one piece of information amongst several others to consider. Furthermore, in several parts of the world, law restricts utilization of private label, such as the FPI, in tenders. If in doubt as to what regulation applies in your country, you should seek legal advice

7 – How long is an FPI certificate valid for? A certificate is valid for one year, as we plan to update test methods periodically, to follow the latest developments in the industry and our own research.

8 – How long does it take to get the fibers tested? The process takes between 1 and 6 months. This depends on whether we have already tested the fiber(s) of the manufacturer on UV or not.

9 – Is the FPI only relevant to sports turf or is it also suitable for landscaping artificial grass? While we originally designed FPI for sports, UV, Resilience and Feel are very relevant criteria for landscaping projects as well. We are also working on adapting the FPI to other sports floors (eg. Indoor sports floors).

10 – Who can apply to the FPI? The FPI is part of the Labosport certification program, which includes 4 labels: durability, environmental impact, quality control and Fiber Performance Index. The program is open to all manufacturers. Please note that some labels require products to reach an expected level of performance. For more details on the program, please call us or write to us at contact@labosport.com