



Rootzone Guidelines

Introduction

The quality and playing performance of natural turf areas is very dependent on the medium in which the grass is growing and on products used for turf maintenance. Over the last 40 years a combination of research and practical experience has allowed the identification of the types of rootzone that are most suitable for sports and amenity surfaces. A vital requirement is the ability to produce rootzones to a consistent quality and handle them with care.

The formation of the British Rootzone & Top Dressing Manufacturers Association (BRTMA) in 2000 by a group of specialist manufacturers within the industry was an important development in ensuring the supply of materials to high standards of specification and quality control for the varied applications on natural turf areas.

Member companies of the BRTMA offer consistent, repeatable and quality controlled products for the construction and maintenance of natural turf areas.

The Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) has been appointed as the official Test House for the BRTMA, ensuring independent assessment of rootzones and top dressings.

Scope

This document establishes guidelines for the supply of rootzones from members of the BRTMA and the optimum point of testing for the material as the current practice of sampling and testing after delivery is not acceptable. It also defines the responsibilities of the Supplier and the Purchaser.

Definitions

'Tender'	a document issued by the Purchaser to define the technical criteria of the rootzone
'Purchaser'	the person or company whose order for the rootzone is accepted by the Supplier
'Supplier'	the rootzone manufacturer
'Rootzone'	a growing medium for natural turf areas
'Approved Laboratory'	a USGA A2LA accredited laboratory
'Quality Control System'	a third-party accredited quality scheme

Manufacture/Testing/Approval

The Purchaser shall select the specification and quantity of the rootzone to be used. Each Purchaser shall ensure that the specification is suitable for his own application.

The Purchaser shall issue a Tender for the quotation and subsequent manufacture of the rootzone to the required specification.

If requested, the specified product, or agreed alternative, shall be manufactured by the Supplier and a sample tested in accordance with their Quality Control System or by an Approved Laboratory to assess its conformity with the agreed specification.

The Purchaser shall place an order for the supply of the agreed and accepted rootzone. The rootzone shall be tested at agreed regular intervals from the Supplier's stockpile to ensure its conformity to the agreed specification.

The final point of testing for the rootzone, to assess compliance with the specification, shall be in the Supplier's stockpile prior to despatch.

The rootzone shall continue to be the responsibility of the Supplier during loading and in transit to the Purchaser (unless the Purchaser arranges for collection) although no further relevant testing can be carried out after loading into the delivery vehicle from the stockpile.

At the point of discharge the rootzone shall become the responsibility of the Purchaser.

In order to ensure that the quality and performance of the rootzone is maintained to the highest standard on site it is recommended that the Purchaser handle the rootzone with care.

Incorrect handling of the rootzone will have a detrimental effect on product performance.

To assist, the following Handling Tips are recommended but are not all encompassing:

Handling Tips

- The site surface onto which the rootzone is discharged should be as hard, clean and dry as possible.
- The rootzone should be handled as little as possible
- The rootzone should be stored in a way which minimises the risks of contamination
- Rootzone should not be stored for prolonged periods
- The rootzone should not be over-compacted e.g. by heavy plant and equipment
- Installation during excessively wet conditions should be avoided.