Accepted Manuscript

Physico-chemical characterization of playground sand dust, inhalable and bioaccessible fractions

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PII: S0045-6535(17)31517-5

DOI: 10.1016/j.chemosphere.2017.09.101

Reference: CHEM 19974

To appear in: ECSN

Received Date: 30 May 2017

Revised Date: 1 August 2017

Accepted Date: 21 September 2017

Please cite this article as: Valido, I.H., Padoan, E., Moreno, T., Querol, X., Font, O., Amato, F., Physicochemical characterization of playground sand dust, inhalable and bioaccessible fractions, *Chemosphere* (2017), doi: 10.1016/j.chemosphere.2017.09.101.

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18	Abstract
19	Dust is a mixture of natural and anthropogenic particles originated from multiple sources, which can
20	represent an hazard for human health. Playgrounds are a site of particularly concern due to sand dust

represent an hazard for human health. Playgrounds are a site of particularly concern, due to sand dust 20 21 ingestion by toddlers and inhalation. In this study, 37 sands used in public playgrounds in the city of 22 Barcelona were physico-chemically characterized also in relation to routine maintenance activities such as 23 disinfection and sand renewal. The analyzed sands show a felsic mineralogy dominated by Na-feldspar, 24 quartz, and, to a lesser extent, K-feldspar, with minor amounts of clay minerals, carbonates and hematite. 25 Particle fractions below 10, 2.5 and 1 µm represent, on average, 0.65%, 0.17% and 0.07% of bulk volume, 26 respectively, although, due to the human grinding, these initial fractions increased every year by a 18%, 5% 27 and 2% respectively. Disinfection of sands effectively reduced only the NH_4^+ concentration, among 28 inorganic species. The average metal content was anthropogenically enriched, with respect to the upper 29 continental crust, only for Sb and As. Both elements show high spatial variation indicating local sources such 30 as road traffic for Sb (contributing mostly to the total concentration), and industry for As (also contributing 31 with highly bioaccessible Sb, Cu and Zn). A clear inverse relationship between total concentrations of some 32 elements and their leachable (Sb) and bioaccessible (Sb and Cr) fractions is observed. The most 33 bioaccessible elements were Ca>Ni>Cu>Sr>Cd>Pb, all above the 25% of the total concentration. 34 Bioaccessibility was higher for the carbonate-bearing particles and for the anthropic emitted metals (>50% of 35 Ba, Cu, K, Pb and Zn).

- 36
- 37 Keywords

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