



Product Data Sheet

COSHH – The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002

Product and Company Identification

Product Name	Stepoc
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Composition / Information on Ingredients

In general, concrete products are made up from compacted, Aggregates (Limestone dust), Cements (Ordinary Portland Cement) and other additives to aid curing and lifecycle.

Hazards Identification

Repeated and prolonged contact with cured concrete products can cause abrasion to the skin. Many products will contain sharp edges. Due to the wide variation in shape, size and weight hazards associated with manual handling do exist.

Additional hazards will occur when concrete products are machined (e.g. cut, drilled or polished). These activities will release dust which may contain particles of quartz or silica. Inhalation of concrete may irritate the airways. Concrete dust can also cause irritation to the skin and or eyes. Inhalation over a prolonged period of time of dust containing Respirable silica or quartz can give rise to silicosis / pneumoconiosis, a disease of the lungs leading to impaired breathing.

Occupational Exposure Limits

Source: EH40

The Workplace Exposure Limit (WEL) for what is considered nuisance dust given off by concrete products is 10 mg/m³ for Inhalable and 4 mg/m³ for Respirable dust.

The same Workplace exposure limits apply to Portland cement and limestone.

For Concrete dust that contain Respirable silica a Workplace Exposure Limit of 0.1 mg/m³ would apply

Note: The only reliable way to ascertain the levels of individual exposure to both Inhalable and Respirable dust is to carry out personal monitoring.

Exposure Control and Personal Protection

In all circumstances where exposure to concentrations of dust is evident, such exposure must be reduced to as low as practicable using good standards of occupational hygiene, personal and respiratory protective equipment and appropriate dust suppression and local exhaust ventilation.

Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) – Persons carrying out operations involving machining, e.g. cutting, drilling and polishing, must wear suitable respiratory protection. Consultation with equipment suppliers should be undertaken to ensure correct type and use. Fortcrete advises that that dry cutting of concrete products is avoided wherever practicable. Wet cutting reduces the amount of air-borne dust being generated.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – Eye protection should be worn to prevent dust entering eyes and also to protect against flying debris during splitting / breaking processes.

Suitable gloves should be worn to protect against sharp edges and skin abrasion. Additionally hand skin protection should be worn to prevent contact with wet concrete dust or slurry. Safety footwear should be worn to protect against falling blocks.

Manual Handling– Repetitive handling of concrete products can give rise to musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) in particular sprains and strains which are often of the back. Care should be taken when handling and stacking concrete products. For each activity consideration should be given to the weight and stability of individual units or packs of product. Consideration should also be given to the handling and disposal of banding wires and tapes and all other packaging materials used.

Further information on the manual handling of concrete products can be found in various HSE and industry information sheets, guidelines and regulations including:

- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992
- Indg332 – Manual packing in the brick industry
- Construction Sheet Number 37 – Handling Building Blocks

Storage and on site Handling

Concrete products should be off-loaded onto a firm level surface. Additional care should be taken when double / multiple stacking of pallets or packs of products. Where double or multiple stacking occurs (uniform solid packs) the stability of the stack should be assessed, any signs of instability, such as the stack leaning, should be investigated and corrected, and i.e. the packs should be re-stacked on firm level ground.

Pack weights will vary dependant on type of product, size and quantity per pack. Equipment used for lifting packs of products should be checked for suitability to the weight involved.

Products / packs may be delivered on wooden pallets and will be held together by either or a combination of plastic or steel strapping and shrink-wrapping (bag or sheeting). All persons involved with the transporting of packs need to be made aware, particularly when transporting overhead, that the strapping could snap, the shrink-wrapping could burst or the pallet could fail which would allow the products to fall.

The strapping should not be used as an aid for lifting the packs. Those persons involved in the lifting and transporting of packs should be made aware that pre-formed void holes in the packs or the pallets provided should be used.

Liability

This information is to the best of the company's knowledge, and is believed to be accurate and reliable at the date of issue.

It is the responsibility of the customer / user to obtain information, including, Health and Safety and technical on all materials used with our concrete products.

Anderton Concrete Products accepts no liability in respect of other materials used with our products.

OFF LOADING

These packs may be delivered on disposable wooden pallets or they may be held together as a unit by plastic or steel straps. In both cases, the products may be contained by a plastic shrink-wrap, if requested by the customer.

All personnel involved in the handling of packs should be made aware that both steel and plastic straps could snap in certain circumstances, allowing the products to fall:

- **AVOID abnormal shocks to the packs**
- **AVOID sliding one pack against any face of another pack**

NOTE Straps can deteriorate over a period of time

The strapping, if provided must never be used to lift packs. Only use the holes in the packs or pallets provided. It is recommended that suitable handling forks should have a width of 90mm and be

1100mm long; it is also recommended that grabs should only be used on solid packs.

It is recommended that packs should always be lifted via the void holes, by a fork lift truck or similar device. This allows for correct distribution of the pack weight under the void layer, which is the layer the straps are supporting. However quite

often "side grabs" are used especially on lorries. It is recommended that the grab should ALWAYS pick the pack up on

the NON STRAP side as near to the bottom of the pack as possible. This method ensures the grab

has all the weight of the pack. The pack should NOT be "grabbed" at the top of the pack because all the weight is left supported on the straps.

Wherever possible, packs should be placed singly on dry, level ground.

It may be possible to stack normal packs up to 3 high if they are carefully placed directly on top of each other, without touching adjacent packs, by a competent forklift driver, provided the stacking ground is hard, level and designed to carry the weight. If there are any indications of instability, such as the stack leaning, then the packs should be immediately re- stacked at ground level.

Any pallets supplied by the client to store or transport packs must be very close in size to the pack dimensions and must be of adequate strength to support the weight of product placed on it and take into account the weight of any other products stacked above it.

ON SITE HANDLING

Some pack configurations can be split into vertical legs or blades. These legs are only stable if stored or moved around while laid flat on a pallet - they must not be moved in the vertical position.

Where packs are lifted more than 1 metre above ground level, a safety cage of adequate dimensions around the pack should be used. All personnel must stand well clear of packs when they are being lifted or moved.

If it is considered necessary to store a pack above ground level, it should only be placed on a suitably designed staging with

guard rails and nets of appropriate height to prevent any product falling to lower working areas.

PROCESSING

Straps should be cut by wire cutters and not burst by the application of levered pressure. When cutting straps, the operative should stand to the side of the strap being cut and not in line with that strap. Highly tensioned straps can spring away from the package when tension is released. In accordance with the Personal Protective Equipment At Work Regulations 1992, persons cutting wire strapping under tension MUST wear suitable eye protectors (reference: BS EN 166, 167 & 168).

Strapping around brick packs has sharp edges and suitable gloves should always be worn when handling this material. When straps are cut, protective footwear and overalls should also be worn

because bricks may fall from the pack, particularly if the pack has been subjected to irregular handling or storage.

MANUAL HANDLING

Cast Stone products present a risk of a manual handling injury.

Large Format Blocks can weigh up to 20kg and lifting is a two handed operation; we recommend that the HSE Information Sheet Guidelines ('Manual Handling- What you need to know as a busy builder') be followed.

