



Product Data Sheet

COSHH – The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002

Product and Company Identification

Product Name	Stepoc
Company	Anderton Concrete Products Ltd
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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. Forticrete 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.