

MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET AERATED CONCRETE BLOCKS

The Control Of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulation (COSHH) requirements of the Health and Safety at Work Act and the Chemicals Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply (CHIPS) regulations requires the manufacturer to provide relevant information regarding their products in respect of its properties, correct use, storage/handling and disposal without risk to health.

PRODUCTS

Standard Format; Large Format; Reduced Bed Height; Floor Blocks; End Blocks; Flooring Slips; Coursing Bricks; Trenchblock and Tongue and Groove with handholds. Trenchblocks in the relevant product specification of Turbo, Shield, Party Wall, Hi Strength 7, Hi Strength 10 and Paint Grade.

Manufacture

Hanson Building Products using the brand name of Thermalite.

Description

Autoclaved Aerated Concrete also known as AAC and Aircrete.

Composition

Pulverised Fuel Ash (PFA), sand, cement, lime, anhydrite, aluminium slurry, water.

Following manufacture the products are deemed to be inert and therefore not hazardous in relationship with the Health and Safety at Work Act.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

When working with Hanson Building Products' Thermalite blocks protective footwear, headwear, glasses and gloves should always be used.

In addition suitable respiratory protection should be used when cutting blocks with hand or mechanical saws. If mechanical saws are used these should comply with regulatory requirements and be operated only by trained competent persons.

Hazard Identification and First Aid

Damage to skin by abrasion or irritation

First Aid – wash with soap and water and if irritation persists seek medical advice.

Prevention – wear suitable gloves

Inhalation/ingestion of aircrete dust and particles

First Aid: If ingested, drink plenty of clean water. If inhaled, aircrete dust causes irritation of the respiratory tract, seek medical advice.

Prevention: Wear suitable respiratory protection and wash hands thoroughly with soap and water before eating or drinking after handling Thermalite blocks.

Dust in eyes may cause irritation and or abrasion.

First Aid: Irrigate liberally with water. If irritation persists seek medical advice.

Prevention: Wear suitable eye protection

Fire Fighting Measures

Products will not support combustion

Accidental Release Measures

Not applicable

Storage

Hanson Building Products Thermalite blocks are delivered to site by road vehicles for which safe access and egress shall be made available. Blocks should be stacked on a dry level ground no more than 3 packs high. Whenever possible blocks should be protected from inclement weather by use of the packs own wrapping or by a suitable tarpaulin. This will minimise the moisture content of the blocks and any resulting weight increase.

When removing packaging care should be taken to ensure blocks do not fall and cause injury to persons in the vicinity of the pack.

Packaging should be disposed of in accordance with local and statutory regulations.

Handling

Where blocks are handled manually, this should be undertaken in accordance with the Manual Handling Regulations 1992 and HSE Construction Sheet no. 37 "Handling Building Blocks". These conclude there is a high risk of injury in the single-handed repetitive manual handling of blocks heavier than 20kg. If single person handling is needed, either blocks of 20kg or lighter should be specified and used or other precautions should be taken to reduce the risk of injury by, for example, the provision of mechanical handling.

The HSE also recommends that blocks with handholds be selected wherever possible.

Individual block weights cited by the manufacturer in its literature and website are based on a theoretical equilibrium value of 3% moisture used for testing and calculation purposes. Moisture content prior to use will be higher than the quoted value and is variable subject to date of manufacture prior to delivery, weather and storage conditions.

The delivered weight format of the Thermalite product range generally falls well below handling guideline limits. However, if there are specific manual handling concerns, particularly with larger block sizes, Hanson recommends site sampling and weighing to determine safe handling practices. For further advice please contact Product Services.

Transport Information

No special precautions required.

Regulatory Information

Classified as non-hazardous for conveyance and supply.

Other information

In accordance with the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992, employers must carry out a risk assessment to ensure the Health and Safety of their employees and non-employees who may be affected by their undertaking.

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