HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK ACT

The Control of Substance Hazardous to Health

The control of substances Hazardous to Health is a new regulation under the 1974 Health and Safety at Work Act, and as a result this company has produced a Hazard Data sheet relating to our products and systems.

HAZARD DATA SHEET

The following products are covered by the Hazard Data Sheet:

(1) Danoline ceiling tiles Plaza, Markant, Combipanel, Corridor, Contur, Linear, Belgravia, Designpanel, Kinopanel and Contrapanel.

(2) Danoline plasterboard panels, factory laminated and plain.

(3) Danoline curved and mitred boards.

1. HANDLING AND STORAGE RECOMMENDATIONS:

All Danoline's products are packed on pallets or formers to facilitate forklift handling, and under no circumstances should full pallet loads of materials be manually moved. If individual cartons or boards have to be moved by hand, this must be done with care to avoid damage to the material, and unnecessary strain on the handling personnel. Plasterboard sheets should be carried vertically by two people, with the long edges of the board in the horizontal plain.

Pallet loads of ceiling tiles and plasterboard sheets can be stacked on top of each other. The maximum number if four pallets per stack, providing theses pallets are packed correctly, i.e. ceiling tiles in shrink- wrapped cartons and plasterboard sheets with protective side packing, securely strapped with steel or nylon banding.

2 HAZARDS

The Health and Safety Executive Guidance Note Eh40/89 gives details of the occupational exposure limits which should be used for the purpose of determining the adequacy of the control of exposure by inhalation to substances hazardous to health.

In this context, gypsum-which is the core material of Danoline's ceiling and plasterboard products-is relatively harmless, especially when compared with other types of mineral dust.

The occupational exposure standard for gypsum with regard to total inhalable dust, over an 8-hour period, is 10mg per cubic metre, and for respirable dust, 5mg per cubic metre. In normal use Danoline's products fall within these boundary values, and thin included plasterboard panels, laminated with polyvinyl chloride as decorative finish.

All Danoline's products are manufactured from a base plasterboard that contains chopped glass fibres of approximately 15mm in length. These fibres can cause irritation to the skin, and in turn eczema, for people who are sensitive to manmade fibres. Furthermore, it is possible that when gypsum dust combines with perspiration on the skin, an alkaline chemical reaction takes place that can cause irritation.

3. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Danoline's ceiling tiles, plasterboard sheets and curved boards are high-quality finishing products of non-bearing capability, and it is essential that operative do not support their own weight on these materials.

Where tiles and plasterboards have to be cut, we recommend the use of a fine –tooth handsaw, hand knife or power saw. Cutting will create dust, and therefore this operation should be carried out in a well-ventilation area. If possible, a dust filter mask should be used. It is also recommended that mobile dust extractor should be used with power tools.

Where possible, the skin should be protected from the effects of both gypsum dust and glass –fibre strands by wearing gloves, and dust –repellent work clothes. Washing with soap and cold water will minimise the possibility of skin irritation, and this can be further helped by regular application of a skin cream.

4 FIRE SAFETY

Danoline's base plasterboard has been tested in accordance with DIN 4102 Part 1 with regard to smoke thickness and toxicity when subjected to fire testing. At a testing temperature of 300 degrees Celsius, the smoke thickness created an average light absorption of 2.25%

Controlled laboratory experiments on animals, during a one-hour test period revealed no toxic side effects, with COH content in the testing specimens average in 19%

These results showed that the gasses given off by Danoline's plasterboard can be considered as not dangerous. No objections to the smoke or glass created by the fire were raised in the test report.

It is recommended that personnel involved in fire tests on Danoline's plasterboard should avoid breathing smoke or gases given off, and that adequate extraction facilities should be provided at the test site.