

HEALTH & SAFETY PRODUCT DATA

1. Products

Precast concrete pipes, manhole units and cover slabs. Most units manufactured to BS EN 1916 & 1917 and BS 5911 and all intended for use in underground drainage systems.

2. Physical and Chemical Composition

Concrete is made from a mixture of aggregates, cements, admixtures and water. It is compacted into moulds and cured to a hardened state. Steel reinforcement is used in some of the products. Elastomeric sealing rings are used for pipe joints. Manhole steps are normally made from plastic encapsulated steel.

3. Main Hazards

- i) Hardened concrete is a rough surfaced substance that can cause abrasion damage to the skin. These products being heavy and generally cylindrical in shape, have a tendency to roll and also need to be lifted with care to avoid risk of physical injury.
- ii) When concrete is cut respirable dust is produced which may constitute a health hazard if inhaled. HSE Guidance Note EH40 lays down the threshold limits for dust inhalation.

Detritus is also produced and chips are sometimes ejected from the cut with considerable force.

4. Precautions

- i) To avoid handling damage the products must not be subjected to any impact shocks and all lifting must be carried out using certified equipment. Pipes should be lifted with webbing slings around the barrel (never through the barrel) or by approved lifting attachments. Manhole units should be lifted using approved lifting bolts through the holes provided and cover slabs should be slung singly from the hooks provided.
- ii) When cutting concrete the inhalation of the dust must be avoided. Normal protection from flying chips should be provided for eyes, hands, feet etc.

5. Protective Clothing

When handling these products gloves and safety boots should be worn. When cutting, dust masks and goggles should also be used. All protective clothing should satisfy the relevant British Standards.

6. Transportation, Storage and Disposal

The carriage of concrete products is not subject to hazardous substance regulations. The storage of these products should be undertaken with due consideration for the stability and safety of the final stack given the weight of each individual unit. Hardened concrete is inert and should be disposed of in accordance with local legal requirements.

7. Further Information

The advice given here applies to all products used in applications for which they are intended although it is not intended to replace the user's own analysis of any risks.

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