

COSHH For Slate - Health & Safety



The following information is based on recommendations issued by the Health and Safety Executive who can be contacted at:

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1. Safe Use of Ladders

Any work that cannot be safely done from a ladder should be done from secure access equipment or scaffolding. The ladder should rest against a secure surface and strapped to the structure. For further information on this refer to BS 1129: 1982, BS 2037: 1984, HSE Guidance note GS31.

2. Safe use of Scaffolds

It is the responsibility of the contractor to provide a safe working environment for operatives. It is particularly important that the right type of scaffolding is used and that this is securely connected to the work area of the building. The various types of scaffolding ties are clearly set out in the following documents:

- HSE General Access Scaffolding Guidance Note 5
- Scaffolders' and Users Guide to
- Access Scaffolding BEC Publications

- BS 5973: 1990 Code of Practice for Access and Special Scaffold in Steel
- Tower Scaffolds are covered in the following documents:
- HSE Tower Scaffolds Guidance Note GS42
- Operators Code of Practice Prefabricated Aluminium Scaffolding Manufacturers Association

3. Working on Pitched Roofs

- Working on a pitched roof surface is an extremely dangerous environment. As well as providing adequate scaffolding, the operator should wear an approved harness if at all practicable and have use of roof ladders and boards. For further information refer to the following documents:
NS1397: 1979 Specifications for Industrial Safety Belts, Harnesses and Safety Lanyards
BS5062: Part 1 1985 "Roofing and Cladding in Windy Conditions"

Health and Safety Statement

This information is provided in compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 Section 8 (as amended by Consumer Protection Act 1987)

and control of substances hazardous to health (COSHH) 1988.

1. The product is natural roofing slates as used as a weathering seal for roofs and wall claddings.
2. The slate is composed of various mountain sites in Galicia, North West Spain and originates from the Ordovician System. The slate is composed of various minerals such as quartz, Sericite, Chlorite, Feldspar and Calcite.
3. If dust is inhaled in excessive amounts, over many years, during the manufacturing process it can, without proper controls, possibly create a long term health hazard. In context of site work the only potential hazard is sharp edges and splinters. Precautions to be taken in areas of restricted ventilation are dust masks to BS 2091. Eye protection during cutting to BS 2092 grade 2.
4. Wear gloves during handling to avoid slate splinters and knee protectors during fixing. Store no more than 2 pallets high.