

Health and Safety & Handling Guide WALSC AAC PRODUCTS

Version: 2021A

Overview:

This guide outlines the important health and safety factors to be considered on handling of Walsc AAC products such as AAC Panels and Blocks. It also provides handling advices to ensure the workers work in a safe environment and minimise any risk that may associate with.

The content of this guide includes:

Health and Safety

Storage & Handling

Panel Cutting

Health and Safety

Walsc AAC Panel, like all concrete members, contain crystalline silica (also known as silica dust). Prolonged exposure via inhalation can cause bronchitis, silicosis in the long term, among other possible conditions. As such, proper PPE usage during construction is necessary to create a safe work environment.



While AAC panels are left undamaged and intact, there is no potential health risk. As such, touching the material with bare skin is not an immediate problem. Protection may be suitable however, to prevent abrasion from skin contact. However, when the material has been broken down by any process such as cutting, drilling, chasing or sanding, silica dust is generated. Long term exposure to silica dust increases the risk of health problems, so it is advised that precautionary measures are taken.



Either protective masks or dust extraction are recommended for usage as a preventative measure during any process that breaks down the panels. Wet cutting of the panels is not recommended. Protective respirators should be of Class P1 or P2 (to AS/NZS1715 and AS/NZS 1716) and recommended for dust, at a minimum. Dust extraction systems should be appropriately filtered as required by local council regulations. The site should also be cleaned at regular intervals (e.g. daily) to prevent dust accumulation.

Other preventative measures not related to the inhalation of silica dust may include:

- Eye protection in accordance with AS1336 (Eye or face protection - guidelines);
- Protective footwear in accordance with AS2210 (Occupational protective footwear);
- Ear plugs/ear muffs to an appropriate rating for the tools being used, in accordance with AS1270 (Acoustics - Hearing protectors);
- Protective clothing such as long sleeve shirts and trousers, or overalls to prevent possible skin irritation. This will also have the added benefit of protecting outside workers from the sun.

For further details, see the **MSDS** at www.walsc.com.au

WARNING: SAFETY ALWAYS COMES FIRST, WEAR PPE!



Storage & Handling

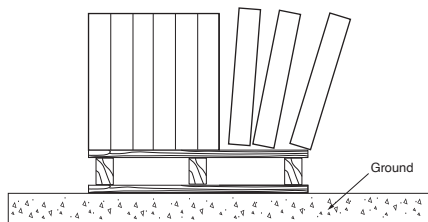
Walsc AAC packs to be stored on the ground or on area that is flat and capable of supporting the weight of packs. Panel packs are not to be stacked on top of each other on site. Panels should have faces, corners and edges protected from damage. When opening packs, appropriate measures should be taken to prevent panels from falling. Any opened packs are protected from the weather and secured while not in use.

Walsc recommends using a trolley or other mechanical apparatus to move the panels around the work site. Manual handling where people physically move a panel, should be kept to a minimum, with the weight being supported by an individual kept as small as possible. Any concerns regarding the weight to be handled should be discussed with subcontractor or Walsc.

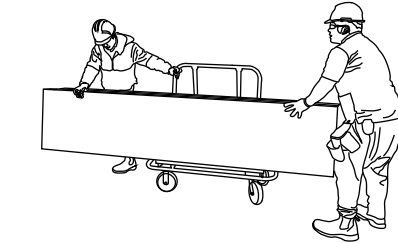
To minimise the possibility of manual handling injuries, the following precautions should be taken:

1. Before lifting packs, ensure that the panels are securely strapped;
2. Use mechanical aids, such as trolleys, forklifts, cranes and levers, or team lifting to move panels;
3. Keep the work place clean to reduce the risk of slips, trips and falls, which can cause injury;
4. Plan the sequence of installation to minimise panel movements and avoid awkward lifts;
5. Train workers in good lifting techniques to minimise the risk of injury;
6. Minimise the distance between the load and the body, bend the knees, allowing for use of the leg muscles, keep the back as straight as possible;
7. Whenever manually lifting single panels, a minimum of two people should carry each panel and the panel should be carried on its side (not flat). Good lifting techniques and a clean work site should be maintained to minimise injuries.

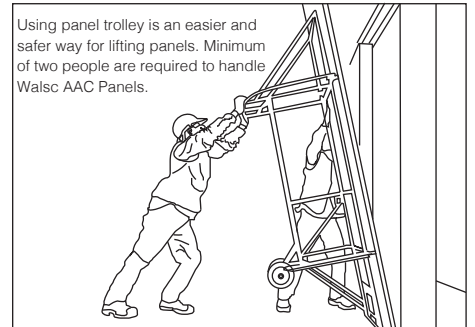
Unstrapping bundles without appropriate bracing is prohibited. Lay the loose panel flat, or use brace straps or support to prevent loose panels from falling.



Use mechanical aids such as trolley to move panels.



Using panel trolley is an easier and safer way for lifting panels. Minimum of two people are required to handle Walsc AAC Panels.



Panel Cutting

When cutting, routing or chasing Walsc AAC products with power tools, dust extraction equipment, i.e., vacuums should be used. Use isolation room with a signage during cutting progress to prevent panel dust spread to other space, wear PPE and follow below recommendations.

- Person operating the power saw must wear a P2 half face respirator during cutting;
- Dust extraction must be fitted to power saws;
- Clean out the dust cowl on the saw at least daily to eliminate blockages & maintain good dust extraction;
- Adjust dust cowlings on power saws to provide maximum enclosure for dust collection;
- Check dust extractors regularly to ensure seals are in good condition & they are providing good suction;
- Empty dust bags regularly. Ensure that disposable bags are tied off to prevent the dust falling out of the bag. If reusable bags are used, then the contents should be emptied into a plastic bag that is tied off before disposal;
- For dust extractors fitted with secondary filters, clean the secondary filter daily using another dust extractor;
- Set the depth of cut to 2 mm less than the thickness of the panel on power saws to prevent blow through of dust during cutting.

