

Topblock *Product health and safety*

Authority

Issued under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the Consumer Protection Act 1987 and Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 1994.

Name of company

Tarmac Topblock Limited
Millfields Road
Wolverhampton
West Midlands
WV4 6JP

Products

Aggregate and Aircrete concrete building blocks under the product names listed are hereafter described as 'concrete blocks' unless specifically described otherwise.

Product names

| Aggregate Blocks | Aircrete Blocks |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Hemelite | Durox |
| Topcrete | Toplite |
| Weathered Masonry | |
| Echomaster | |

Note Bricks, coursing units, paint quality and fair face blocks, foundation blocks, flooring blocks and ancillary units are included within these product names

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Composition

Depending on block type, aggregate concrete blocks are manufactured from cement, pulverised fuel ash, lightweight or natural aggregates and water.

Echomaster blocks contain mineral wool within their formed voids.

Aircrete blocks are manufactured from sand, cementitious binders, a trace quantity of aluminium and water.

Application

Concrete blocks are designed and manufactured at various densities, strengths and sizes. They are mainly used in the construction of walls and are usually bonded together with mortar. In certain circumstances, they may be used singularly or unbonded. These units may also be used in pre-cast and cast-in-situ concrete floors. Concrete blocks must be used strictly in accordance with appropriate British or European Standards and Building Regulations.

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Hazards identification

The products, within the meaning of the Health and Safety at Work Act, are inherently safe, but some hazards are identified thus:

- The comparatively rough surface finish and sharp edges of concrete blocks require care when handling manually, to avoid risks of cuts or abrasions.
- The unit weight and size should be taken into account when handling, to avoid dropping or strains when lifting.
- Silica dust from concrete blocks can be harmful if inhaled or ingested, and, as with any dust, may cause irritation to the respiratory and digestive tract.
- Plastic packaging materials are combustible and may constitute a fire hazard.
- The mineral wool component of Echomaster blocks may cause irritation to skin and eyes.

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First-aid measures

There are no specific requirements when using concrete blocks, other than the treatment of minor injuries. For example, treat dust in the mouth or eye by washing liberally with clean water. Where eye contact occurs, the area must be immediately and thoroughly irrigated using water or a suitable eyewash. Treat dust on the skin by washing liberally with soap and clean water.

In the case of doubt, or when symptoms persist, medical advice should be sought.

Fire-fighting measures

In the event of fire, concrete blocks are not combustible. However, plastic shrink-wrapping, plastic strapping, edging strips and pallets will burn if ignited. These materials will produce noxious fumes when burnt, and personnel should not be exposed to these. After a fire, packaged concrete blocks may become unstable. They should not be lifted or moved under any circumstances until the situation has been assessed by a competent person and permission to proceed has been granted.

Accident release measures

Not applicable.

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Handling and storage

Concrete blocks are generally delivered by road transport and are off-loaded mechanically.

When lifted by grab, crane or fork truck, no personnel should be permitted beneath the load.

Concrete blocks should always be stacked on a firm, level base to avoid collapse. Stacking blocks over the normal head height should be avoided, if they are to be handled other than by mechanical methods in full packs, to prevent the risk of loose blocks falling.

When concrete blocks are banded or wrapped, care should be taken when removing this packaging to avoid injury from the band under tension, or any loose blocks falling when the banding or wrapping is released.

When concrete blocks are handled manually, good lifting practice should be followed at all times to avoid risk of injury. It is the responsibility of the employer to consider the implications of all manual handling tasks in accordance with the Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992.

Advice on the weight of all Topblock products is available on request.

Normal construction practice should be followed when incorporating concrete blocks into a structure, and further advice can be obtained from Tarmac Topblock literature or by contacting the Technical Services Department on 01903 723333.

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Exposure controls/ personal protection

During the processes of cutting, drilling or chasing concrete blocks, there is likely to be exposure to respirable dust.

Occupational Exposure Limits should be determined in accordance with EH40, published by the Health and Safety Executive.

The normal protective clothing recommended for wear on building sites, eg safety footwear, head protection and gloves, is required. In addition, suitable goggles and dust masks

conforming to the appropriate British or European Standard should be worn during the processes of cutting, chasing or drilling. In certain sunlight conditions, some of the units may emit a high level of glare.

Physical and chemical properties

Concrete blocks are inert when supplied. The main constituents are lightweight and natural aggregates (depending on block type), which contain silica, pulverised fuel ash - which contains amorphous silica and

various metal oxides - and cement, which mainly comprises calcium silicate and calcium aluminates.

Stability and reactivity

Not applicable.

Toxicological information

Not applicable.

Ecological information

Not applicable.

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Transportation information

Concrete blocks are not subject to hazardous substance conveyance regulations, and vehicle and package labelling is not required.

Disposal considerations

All waste materials should be disposed of at a suitable licensed disposal facility, preferably by recycling or re-use. Advice on a preferred method should be obtained from the Environmental Agency.

Other information

Tarmac Topblock's technical staff are on hand to render assistance with written or telephone enquiries.

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Ford Arundel
West Sussex BN18 0HY
Telephone: 01903 723333
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Technical

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Eastern

(Durham Sales Office)

Tel: 0191 378 0406 Fax: 0191 378 3501

Eastern

(Newark Sales Office)

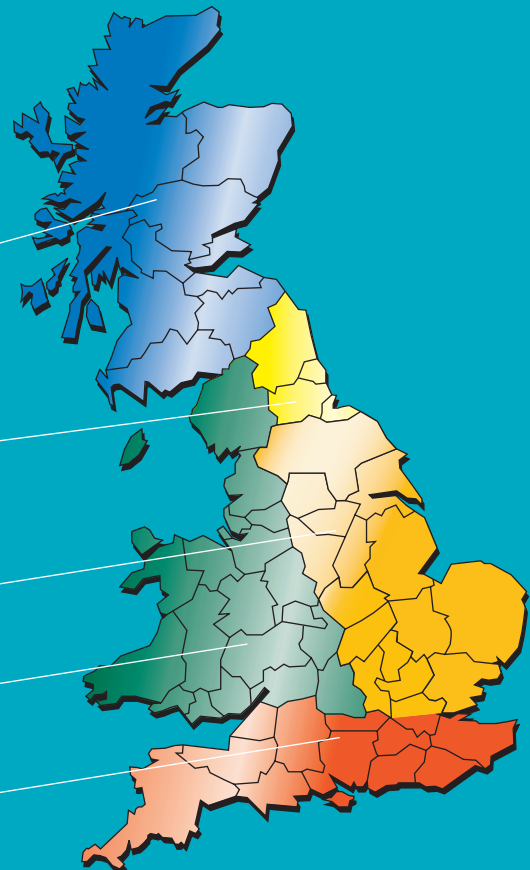
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