

## HEALTH & SAFETY

### WHY IS HEALTH & SAFETY IMPORTANT?

Following the correct Health & Safety procedures on site is crucial in today's building industry. Apart from the well being of workers on the construction site, eliminating and dealing properly with Health & Safety risks can help do away with often hefty compensation claims that may accompany injuries sustained on site. In the worst case, by not adhering to the correct Health & Safety Regulations, building sites may even be temporarily shut down leading to a loss of time and money.

It is the legal duty of designers, contractors, manufacturers and clients to ensure the safety and protection of those employed at all stages of the construction process.

The Construction Design & Management (CDM) Regulations place responsibility for Health & Safety on everyone involved in the construction project and particular attention during construction should be paid to:

- Site clearance
- New build, alteration, conversion and fitting out
- Renovation and repair
- Maintenance
- Demolition

The duties of the designer and contractor are broadly defined as:

- To eliminate hazards where feasible
- To reduce risks from those hazards that cannot be eliminated
- To provide information on residual risks if they are significant



## HOW DOES AIRCRETE STACK UP?

### LIGHTER

- Aircrete blocks are easy to handle and work with as they are almost one third the weight of traditional concrete blocks.
- A 215mm block comes comfortably within the 20kg threshold that CONIAC conclude may lead to a high risk of injury through sustained, single-handed use.

### LARGE FORMAT

- The low unit weight of Aircrete allows larger block sizes to be safely used. This can lead to significant productivity gains on site, with time savings of up to 50% compared to traditional blocks.
- By specifying larger, lighter Aircrete blocks and structural units (all within the CONIAC threshold), specifiers and managers can 'design-in' a lower frequency of lifts as well as reduced lifting weights.

### INNOVATIVE

The versatility of Aircrete is emphasised by the many product innovations developed over the years.

- Handholds in standard blocks aid handling and speed up construction.
- Aircrete's unique combination of light weight, strength and workability, make it a preferred, modern approach to more efficient and safe construction. The use of Aircrete's thin joint mortar system allows for rapid construction while specifically engineered foundation blocks and infill blocks for suspended beams add to ease of construction.

### FIRE PROTECTION

- Aircrete is non-combustible and poses little risk of injury sustained through fire to workers on site through all stages of construction.



## THE SAFE USE OF AIRCRETE

Aircrete blocks are light to handle and lay, but full Health & Safety procedures must be followed according to the size and weight of the products. They are not hazardous within the meaning of the Health & Safety at Work Act. Always consult the manufacturer's literature and website for specific guidance.



The Aircrete Products Association comprises H+H UK, Tarmac Topblock, Thermalite and Quinn Lite – the major manufacturers of Aircrete products in the United Kingdom. It is a non profit-making organisation dedicated to promoting the benefits of Aircrete building products.



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