Material Safety Data Sheet – Airtec Blocks

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1. Identification of the substance / preparation and company / undertaking

Products: AIRTEC autoclaved aerated concrete blocks and bricks for use in walls, foundations and flooring applications manufactured in various grades of strength and density and with a range of sizes and weights for use in the construction industry.

Grades:

Airtec XL:	2.9 N/mm^2 strength; 460 (± 50) kg/m^3 density
Airtec Standard:	3.6 N/mm^2 strength; 530 (± 50) kg/m^3 density
Airtec Party Wall:	3.6 N/mm^2 strength; 600 (± 50) kg/m^3 density
Airtec Seven:	7.3 N/mm^2 strength; 730 (± 50) kg/m^3 density

Company:

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2. Hazards Identification

The products supplied are non-hazardous within the meaning of the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) regulations. Cutting and drilling and using power tools can create dust which could contain free crystalline silica. Prolonged exposure to silica dust can result in lung disease.

3. Composition / Information on Ingredients

Cement, quicklime, anhydrite, pulverised fuel ash, silica sand, aluminium powder

4. First Aid Measures

Inhalation: Remove from exposure to fresh air. If irritation of respiratory tract persists, seek medical advice.

Ingestion: Do not induce vomiting. Drink plenty of water and seek medical attention.

Skin contact: Wash with soap and water.

Eye contact: Irrigate thoroughly with copious amounts of eyewash or clean water. If irritation persists, seek medical attention.

5. Fire Fighting Measures

Products are non-combustible and inhibit the spread of flame. No special firefighting procedure, extinguisher media or explosion hazard is identified.

6. Accidental Release Measures

In the event of dust being released whilst cutting, wear suitable respiratory protection and eye protection (see section 8). Local exhaust or dampening techniques should be considered before carrying out work which may give rise to dust. Dust should be either vacuum collected or dampened before physical recovery to reduce the level of dust in the air. Avoid sweeping as this creates dust. Keep the area as well ventilated as far as is reasonably practicable.

7. Handling & Storage

Concrete blocks are heavy and good manual handling technique should be used at all times. Handling of blocks should be undertaken in accordance with *HSE Construction Sheet 37 'Handling Building Blocks'* (Construction Industry Advisory Committee) and in accordance with the Manual Handling Regulations 1992 (as amended). Repetitive handling of blocks over 20kg should be avoided and lighter blocks specified otherwise mechanical handling equipment should be employed to reduce risk of injury.

Due to the abrasive nature of the products, suitable gloves, safety footwear and protective clothing should be worn when handling. Avoid over-reaching and twisting and ensure good grip and secure foot placement whilst handling.

Supplied as shrink wrapped, banded packs, with or without wooden pallets and should be stored / stacked a maximum of 2 packs high on firm, level ground. On soft, loose or uneven ground, do not stack more than one pack high. Exercise care when removing the bands as individual blocks may fall from the pack. Stored product should be protected from the weather and kept as dry as possible particularly in the winter months. Blocks used as infill in block and beam suspended floors must not be point-loaded or stood on until the floor is grouted and completed. Use walking boards across beams.

8. Exposure Control / Personal Protection

Workplace Exposure Limit (WEL):

Total inhalable dust:	10 mg/m^3	8hrs TWA
Respirable dust:	4 mg/m^3	8hrs TWA
Respirable silica:	0.1 mg/m^3	8hrs TWA

Source: *HSE publication EH40/2005, as amended October 2007*

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

Where the above limits will be exceeded, e.g. when cutting or drilling using power tools, personal protective equipment should be worn:

- Respiratory protection to EN149 (filtering face piece protectors) or EN140/EN143 (half-mask respirators and filters).
- Gloves to BS EN 388 mechanical hazard protection and safety footwear with steel toecaps to BS EN 345 should be worn when handling products.

When cutting products using power tools, the following items should be worn:

- Eye protection to BS EN 166 Grade 1
- Hearing protection with a recommended noise rating of 95dB – 105dB. Note: engineering measures as detailed in section 6 should be used where practicable to minimise dust levels.

9. Physical & Chemical Properties

Odourless, grey coloured, rectangular section blocks and bricks with a dry density in the range 460 – 810 kg/m^3. Products are non-soluble.

10. Stability & Reactivity

Products are chemically stable and no hazardous substances are known to be formed during the use of this product. Conditions to avoid: none, this is a stable product under recommended storage and handling conditions.

11. Toxicological Information

Eyes: Abrasive - may cause irritation and discomfort.

Skin: Abrasive – brief or occasional contact is unlikely to be harmful.

Inhalation: Repeated inhalation of silica dust above the WEL can lead to the development of silicosis (section 8).

Ingestion: Unlikely to be harmful.

12. Ecological Information

Overall environmental impact is regarded as insignificant. When handled, used and disposed of correctly, no adverse ecological effects are likely.

13. Disposal Considerations

Dispose of surplus material and packaging materials via an authorised waste contractor in accordance with local regulations. Product is not classified as hazardous and can be disposed of as inert waste. EWC 17.01.01 Non-Hazardous Building Waste.

14. Transport Information

Products are not classified as dangerous goods under any transport legislation.

15. Regulatory Information

Products are not classified as dangerous for supply in the UK.

Hazard Statements:	None
Risk & Safety Phrases:	None
Guidance Notes:	Construction Information Sheet (CIS) 37 – Handling Heavy Building Blocks
	Workplace exposure limits EH40/2005, as amended October 2007
	Local exhaust ventilation HS(G) 37
	Respirable crystalline silica EH59
	Dust – general principles of protection EH44
	Waste management – the Duty of Care

16. Other Information

- The information on this datasheet covers use of the products as per their intended application.
- If the products have been purchased to supply to third parties, a copy of this data sheet should be provided to the third parties.
- It is the user's responsibility to ensure that the information given in this datasheet is brought to the attention of anybody in their employ who are to handle or use this product.
- Please note that this datasheet does not constitute a risk assessment as required under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations.
- This data sheet does not constitute or serve as a substitute for the user's own assessment of the risks of using this product in the workplace.

Disclaimer: *Every effort has been made to ensure the correctness of the information provided in this datasheet which relates to the product described only and which is supplied to purchasers on the basis that we cannot guarantee its accurateness or completeness. Health & safety information provided in this datasheet is intended for general guidance only and it is the responsibility of the user to ensure that suitable and sufficient assessment of hazards and risks posed in the employment of any products are undertaken and to comply with any duties imposed by Statutory or Regulatory requirements. This datasheet generally follows REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006; article 31 and Annex II), as amended by Regulation 453/2010. No statement made in this datasheet shall be construed as permission or recommendation for the use of any product in a manner that might infringe any existing patents, nor is any warranty made, either expressed or implied.*

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