

Technical Information Sheet

COSHH Data

TIS010 January 2023

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Working with Filon GRP: A guide to handling & COSHH regulations

Industrial health & safety information Guide to handling

Identification

Product

Filon glass reinforced polyester (GRP) sheeting.

Constituents

Glass fibres, polyester resins, inert fillers, UV stabilisers, promoters and flame retardants.

Identification

Continuous nylon threads at 12mm centres and labels identify sheet type, profile and grade.

Material use

Mainly utilised for rooflights, internal linings and roof flashings in buildings. When required for alternative applications consult Filon Products Limited before use.

- The Building Regulations (England).
- The Building Regulations (Wales).
- The Building Standards (Scotland) Regulations.
- The Building Regulations (Northern Ireland).

COSHH

Protection

Personnel: re-working and machining

Products manufactured from resins containing DBNPG (from April 2021).

Fire Class 1 and Class 0 products contain >0.1% DBNPG. DBNPG is not listed as an SVHC under UK REACH, however as of July 2021 it is an SVHC under REACH in the EU and NI.

Products (Articles) containing DBNPG do not require labelling until the chemical is listed as a substance of very high concern (SVHC). Once the chemical is listed as a SVHC, then if the product (article) contains >0.1% (by weight) of DBNPG, this must be communicated to the downstream user. REACH does not specify that you must provide this information on a label but it must be included on the COSHH data sheet for safe handling.

Protection

Personnel: siteworks

Do not walk on sheets, always use crawling boards. Although sheets can be designed to be 'NON-FRAGILE' for the specific application, they may not have been purchased or installed as such. To prevent damage caused by point loading, crawling boards MUST always be used when fixing and carrying out maintenance work.

Attention is drawn to the Health and Safety Executive Guidance Note HS(G)33 "Safety in Roof Work", published by HMSO. Also, to ACR[CP]001 "Recommended Practice for Work on Profiled Sheeted Roofs", a best practice guide by the Advisory Committee for Roofsafety.

To avoid injury appropriate P.P.E. must be worn at all times when handling GRP products. Protective gloves with a minimum level 2 abrasion and blade cut resistance in accordance with BS EN 388 are recommended.

Personnel: Public

Filon GRP sheets have been tested under the conditions laid down in BS EN 13501-5 and BS 476 "Fire Tests". Digital copies of test results are available on request.

The following regulations which control the use of Filon sheets on buildings within the UK must be complied with:

When cutting or machining with power tools, a non toxic biological inert dust is produced. These dust levels should be kept as low as reasonably practical, and must not exceed the **Occupational Exposure Limit of 10mg/m³ total inhalable dust and 4mg/m³ respirable dust - 8 hour TWA value.**

From a handling perspective, cutting operations are the biggest risk. FFP2 masks are recommended for use when cutting Class 1/0 rated GRP sheets containing >0.1% of DBNPG. For guidance on handling GRP dust go to:

<https://compositesuk.co.uk/system/files/healthsafety/documents/Glass%20Fibre%20Dust.pdf>

When working out of doors, it is most unlikely that these levels could be reached. When working indoors or in a confined space, adequate ventilation should be provided, and when extensive operations are necessary, suitable dust extraction should be provided.

Operators should wear suitable dust masks and goggles. In isolated cases, GRP dust may cause a slight transient irritation. Should these effects be prolonged or any signs of a rash occur, medical advice must be obtained.

All exposed skin must be thoroughly and frequently washed with soap and water. Any eye contamination must be washed with copious amounts of sterile or clean water. Do not smoke in or near stores or working areas.

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Storage

All Filon sheets will burn giving off black toxic smoke which can include hydrogen chloride and hydrogen bromide fumes. Suitable extinguishers include dry powder, carbon dioxide, foam and water spray. Wear self-contained breathing apparatus.

Disposal

Filon GRP is an inert product. Scrap and waste sheets should only be disposed of at approved land fill sites.

Technical services

Technical and advisory services are available from Filon Technical Department.

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