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## HEALTH AND SAFETY PRODUCT DATA SHEET AUTOCLAVED FIBRE CEMENT PRODUCTS

### 1. Products and Company Identification

#### Product Names:

Operal	Cedral Weatherboard
Hydropanel	Bluclad
Eterboard	N.T. External Sills
Eter-Color	

#### Description:

#### High Performance Cladding:

Operal	Cedral Weatherboard
Eter-Color	

Large rigid, rectangular smooth or textured boards in a wide range of colours.

#### General Purpose Building Boards:

Eterboard	Hydropanel
Bluclad	N.T External Sills

Large rigid, rectangular sheet in natural colour.

### 2. Composition/Information on Ingredients

Manufactured from Portland Cement sand and water, reinforced with natural and synthetic fibres, and fillers, either fully or semi-compressed. If through colored they will contain pigments. If surface coated, the coating will generally be a water based acrylic resin with pigments.

### 3. Hazard Identification

Primary entry route(s) Inhalation of dust

Medical Conditions Respiratory conditions  
(Which may be aggravated)

Target Organs Lungs

Due to the presence of crystalline silica in the raw material used in the manufacture of these products, machining may lead to the release of quartz dust. Undisturbed, this product does not pose a health hazard with all the ingredients bonded in the cement matrix.

Inhalation of quartz from occupational sources can cause silicosis and lung cancer.

International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) Monographs 1997. "Crystalline silica inhaled in the form of quartz and cristobalite from occupational sources is carcinogenic to humans" (Group 1)

### 4. First-Aid Measures

Inhalation Remove to fresh air

Skin contact Wash thoroughly with water

Ingestion Give plenty to drink

Eyes Flush copiously for at least 15 minutes. If irritation or discomfort persists – seek medical advice.

### 5. Fire- Fighting Measures

Fibre cement products are non-combustible or class "0" and compatible with all standard fire-fighting measures.

### 6. Accidental Release Measures

## 7. Handling

Off-loading of heavy loads should be carried out with care, to avoid unnecessary strain on the handlers and accidental damage to the product. Mechanical handling equipment should always be used if available.

## 8. Exposure Controls/Personal protection

### 8.1 Safety recommendations when handling or machining these products

The use of angle grinders is not recommended

High Performance Cladding

These should be pre-cut and drilled by specialist distributors, a list of whom can be supplied on request.

General Purpose Building Boards and Extruded Sills

These can be cut with any jigsaw or circular saw. Products must be fully supported when cutting. The use of either a diamond or a tungsten carbide tipped blade is recommended for maximum performance. Please contact the Technical Advisory Service for further information.

After cutting or drilling remove all dust from coloured materials to avoid subsequent staining.

### 8.2 Occupational exposure limits EH40/2005

Workplace exposure limits

- Dust – 8hf T.W.A.  
10mg / m<sup>3</sup> total inhalable dust  
4mg / m<sup>3</sup> total respirable dust
- Crystalline Silica – 8hr T.W.A.  
0.3 mg /m<sup>3</sup> respirable silica

T.W.A. = Time Weighted Average

### 8.3 Personal Protective Equipment

**Goggles** Persons employed in machine cutting, drilling & fixing should wear protective goggles (CE approved to BS 2092).

**Gloves** Should be worn for protection against cuts and abrasions.

**Respirator** Approved respiratory protective equipment should be made available to persons working in concentrations above or around the WEL

**Ventilation** Dust should be controlled by local exhaust ventilation at source.

**Other** Normal protective working overalls.

## 9. Physical and Chemical Properties

High Performance Cladding Panels	Average Bending Strength N/mm <sup>2</sup>	Average Density Kg/m <sup>3</sup>
Operal	17	1230
Cedral Weatherboard	11	1300
Eter-Color	22	1580
<b>General Purpose Building Boards</b>		
Eterboard	17	1230
Bluclad	18	1180
Hydropanel	11	1180
Odour	None	

Flammability

Fire – Fibre cement products are class "0" to the building regulations

## 10. Stability and Reactivity

They are chemically inert and resistant to the majority of fumes, weak acids and alkalis. In the case of aggressive environments, the advice of Eternit's technical advisory service should be sought.

## 11. Toxicological Information

**Inhalation** Acute over-exposure to dust may cause irritation of the respiratory tract.

**Skin Contact** Prolonged or repeated contact may cause mild irritation.

**Skin Absorption** No known hazards.

**Ingestion** Mild discomfort

**Eyes** Mild transient irritation. No specific hazard.

### 11.1 Chronic Effects

Silicosis, a form of fibrosis of the lungs, may arise from the inhalation of silica.

## 12. Ecological Information

Fibre cement products will not degrade in the ground.

## 13. Disposal Considerations

The waste product is a non hazardous industrial waste product, and is not regarded as hazardous waste under the Hazardous Waste (England & Wales) Regulations 2005.

Treat any collective dust in a way that prevents further exposure.

## 14. Transport Information

Other than good haulage practice in securing the consignment, no special precautions need to be taken.

## 15. Regulatory Information

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2004
- Construction (Health Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1996
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992
- HSE Guidance Note EH40/2005 (Occupational Exposure Limits)
- HSE Guidance Note EH44 (Dust – General Principles of Protection)
- HSE Guidance Note EH75/5 (Respirable Crystalline Silica)
- The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 1994

The health and safety information contained herein is believed to be accurate and correct at the date of issue. No liability can be accepted for any loss, injury or damage from its use. It is intended as a guide for the safe handling, storage and use of the product under normal conditions.

## 16. Other Information

- Pure Cladding
- Hydropanel: Planning and Application, User Manual

- Operal and Cedral
- Solutions for the Building Regulations

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