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TOOLBOX TALK

Carrying Plasterboard on to a Job

Definition:

Carrying Plasterboard and Plasterboard product may seem simple however to achieve safe outcomes requires good technique and thought out plan. Locations vary and some circumstances require the product to be carried to a second level.

Identification of Hazards

- Parking a vehicle on a road.
- Possible obstacles between the vehicle and the storage position.
- General site congestion and little space provided to store material.
- Weight of the board/ Reporative action
- Walking up a ramp
- Passing through a window or restricted area
- Perimeter protection on ramps, open voids/stairwells
- Protection of hands
- Dust

Control Measures - includes PPE required

- Always park considering traffic movements and use signage or reflective witches hats to warn oncoming traffic.
- Consider the path to be taken to the storage point prior to removing any product from the truck, move any potential obstacles so that a safe pathway is created.
- Make sure the final storage point has extra space considering sheet size and final weight of load.
- When carrying sheets consider the weight of 9.8 kg per square metre for 10mm board, 2 people should carry board considering strength and ability. Manual handling techniques and lifting skills should be discussed.
- Make sure ramp is clear and free of any substance that may cause slips. Ensure that people step on the cleats to help prevent slipping, do not under any circumstances remove handrails.
- Check that all sheets clearly fit through the opening. Have people on the inside to collect sheets from those carrying up the ramp.
- When working at heights never remove protective handrails from scaffold, ramps or stairwells without replacing or consideration of safe movement.
- Wear gloves to protect hands from constant carrying and sharp edges.
- If sheets are dusty, always consider using face masks.



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Summary/Overview

Moving of plasterboard and associated products may seem relatively easy however a considered approach to this task is essential as repetitive tasks can cause complacency that in turn creates risk. Where possible utilise mechanical lifting devices if possible, and rotate tasks to avoid complacency.