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**METAL CEILING TILES
HEALTH AND SAFETY DATA SHEET**

1) **IDENTIFICATION**

SYNONYM: Metal Ceiling Tiles & Panels

PRODUCT PURPOSE: Suspended Ceiling Systems

2) **DESCRIPTION**

Painted steel ceiling tiles supported in a suspension grid to provide a flat or sloping soffit, with a primary function to improve the appearance of a ceiling area by concealing or intergrating other services.

3) **COMPONENT PARTS**

The product is either aluminum alloy or mild steel coated with zinc by either an electrolytic or hot dip process and finished where applicable with polyester powder paint.

Optional Extras:

Pads manufactured from inert vitreous silicate material wool surfaced with various finishes to customers specification; including plain and reinforced aluminum foil, polythene, PVC and man made spun glass fibre tissue (70kg/m²) bonded with synthetic latex binders, and adhered to the core using a fire retardent, specialist water based adhesive system.

Backing plate manufactured from mild steel coated with zinc by either an electrolytic or hot dip process.

Gasket manufactured from physically crossed linked foam polythene.

Tissue manufactured from viscose rayon with a vinyl acetate binder.

4) **HAZARDS & PERSONAL PROTECTION**

When subject to the normal purposes for which they are designed, these products do not present health risks nor hazards.

By their nature these products may have sharp edges and corners, and the use of gloves when handling is recommended. When installing overhead it is advisable to wear head protection.

When cutting or welding these products, it is advisable to wear eye protection. Avoid ingestion or inhalation of any dust or fumes arising from such cutting operations and use a suitable face mask when necessary.

Metal is a good conductor of electricity and precautions should be taken to ensure contact with live power lines is avoided.

Mineral Wool

Mineral wool products are not classified under CHIP as hazardous, but are listed in the control of substances Hazardous to Health regulations (COSHH) with a maximum exposure limit (MEL). For insulation wool's the appropriate limit is 5mg/m³ (gravimetric).

Human epidemiological studies show to link between exposure to mineral wool fibres and lung disease or any other chronic effects. Rockwool fibres are not classified as a carcinogen by the European Commission Directive 97/69/EC. Skin contact may, however, cause transient mechanical skin irritation. High dust levels may irritate the throat and eyes. The fibres from which Rockwool are made are classified as an irritant under the CHIP Regulations 1998.

Industrial gloves can be worn to protect the hands against irritation. If the MEL is likely to be exceeded then disposable face masks complying with EN149 FFP1 or FFP2 should be used. Adequate ventilation should be provided at such sites. When working with mineral wool products above head height, eye protection is advised.

5) PRECAUTIONS FOR HANDLING AND STORAGE

No special precautions are necessary for normal handling and storage, and no health problems are to be expected from long term exposure during these operations. These products should be kept dry at all times and stores in a dry environment. Ceiling tiles and cartons of ceiling tiles vary in weight up to a maximum of 40kg per carton, care should be exercised when lifting and it is advisable to wear foot protection.

Personal hygiene is essential, always wash hands thoroughly after handling particularly before eating.

6) EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Eye Contact: Irrigate eyes with clean water or suitable eye wash. If symptoms persist, seek medical attention immediately.

Skin Contact: Wash affected area carefully with clean water and a recommended skin cleaner, taking care to remove foreign bodies. If after drying, symptoms persist, seek medical attention immediately.

Ingestion: Drink plenty of water. If symptoms persist, seek medical attention immediately.

Inhalation: Remove to fresh air. If symptoms persist, seek medical attention immediately.

7) **WASTE DISPOSAL**

Remove to a designated building products tip or authorized landfill site. Keep out of the reach of children. Waste products are not hazardous and their disposal should be in accordance with local regulations.

8) **RELEVANT REFERENCES / ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

*Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations.
Manual Handling Operations Regulations
(COSHH) approved code of practice and control of Carcinogens*

- *BSEN166 Specification for industrial eye wear*
- *BSEN388 Specification for protective gloves against mechanical risks.*

HSE Guidance Notes

- *EH26 Occupational skin diseases: health and safety precautions.*
- *EH40 Occupational Exposure Limits 1996.*
- *EH44 Dust in the workplace: general principles of protection.*
- *EH46 Man made mineral fibres*
- *EH55 The control of exposure to fume from welding, brazing and similar processes.*
- *HS(G)173 Monitoring strategies for toxic substances HSE information sheet:*

Engineering sheet No.16 - Preventing injuries from the manual handling of sharp edges in the engineering industry.

Eurosol (UK Mineral Wool Association) Health Statement

HSE Health and Safety at Work Booklets

USG health and safety data sheet no: COSHH7. Issue , 3rd January 2001.