

## Safety Alert/ Bulletin

### Subject: Plasterboard Stacking



#### Description of Accident/ Incident

Following a recent accident where a sub-contractor sustained a significant leg injury when he attempted to move plasterboard leaning against the corridor wall and lost control of the weight resulting in the boards falling, we have reviewed our systems of work accordingly and please be advised of the following directives/ guidance:

#### Pictures/ Additional Information

##### Flat Stacking of Boards

The first option with all plasterboard should be to enable it to be stored/ stacked laid flat in a pre-determined area. Consideration must also be given the weight restrictions of the floor area to ensure no overloading. The use of Trestles or A frame tables should also be considered which raises the stack height to reduce the crouching/ bending of the operatives.



Acceptable Practice

##### Horizontal Stacking of Boards

The current practice of stacking plasterboard on its side in a horizontal manner against walls should now be stopped. This type of "leaning" the boards is potentially unstable and the subsequent weight of the falling boards is significant with severe risk of injury.



Unsafe Practice

The only exception to this would be in circumstances where limited space constraints do not allow flat stacking or where the boards are in process of being installed to the walls and are rested against the wall frame – in both cases no more than 6 boards should be resting against each other at the correct angle and an agreed physical restraint in place to prevent any accidental displacement or unauthorised movement of the boards. (See examples below)

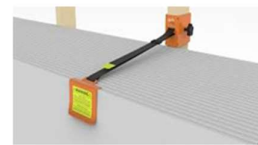
#### Learnings/ Considerations



Site solution using bracket/ bolt



Proprietary system called Rocksteady Clip



Proprietary system called Quik Clip.

Notwithstanding the above recommendations it is essential that we inform all contractors on site that any unauthorised movement of stacked/ stored materials by their operatives is not permitted and permissions must always be agreed with ourselves to ensure suitable control measures and assessments are in place.

Note: The same principles of safe storing/ stacking also applies to other materials such as doors, chipboard, windows etc.

#### Disclaimer

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