



# Working with Hebel Wall Systems

## Guidelines for Installers of Wall Frames, Plasterboard, & Plumbing, Electrical, Fire & Ventilation Services.

*A Sample Work Method Statement developed by CSR Hebel in consultation with the WHC  
overseen by an Industry Reference Committee.*



### **HEALTH HAZARD INFORMATION**

The grit from the surface of Hebel blocks and panels is not respirable. When panel bundles have been installed, the grit left on the floor should be swept up to prevent it being ground into a dust by pedestrian or equipment traffic.

As with all cement-based products, such as concrete slabs, concrete blocks and concrete tiles, contact with Hebel blocks or panels may irritate the skin, resulting in itchiness and occasionally a red rash. Particles in the eye are irritating and corrosive, causing watering and redness, and may result in corneal inflammation and ulceration. The wearing of gloves and suitable clothing to reduce abrasion and irritation of the skin is recommended when handling Hebel and other cement based products, and eye protection is recommended where particles may enter the eye. As with all cement-based products, it is recommended that clothing be washed separately to prevent transfer of cement particles to other clothing.

The use of power tools for cutting, drilling, routing, chasing, sanding or breaking up of silica based products may create dust which contains respirable crystalline silica. Repeated and prolonged exposure to high levels of respirable crystalline silica dust may result in bronchitis, silicosis and an increased risk of lung cancer. Use dust extractors on powered cutting, routing or chasing tools and wear a P1 or P2 respirator when drilling, cutting, chasing, routing, sanding or breaking up all silica based products, such as Hebel blocks, Hebel panels, bricks, concrete blocks, fibre cement, concrete and terracotta tiles, sandstone, aggregates, and concrete slabs & columns.

### **TRAINING**

Personnel working on Hebel Wall systems should receive training in the safety aspects of the work. This training should include the following safety information:

- Composition of Hebel Aerated Autoclaved Concrete (AAC).
- Working Safely with products containing crystalline silica.
- Safe cutting of Hebel panels.
- Use & maintenance of PPE.

### **SAFE WORK METHODS**

Every job a Contract Installer performs will have a number of hazards associated with it. Before commencing work the Contract Installer, in consultation with employees, shall conduct a risk assessment of the job, & develop safe work methods that address the identified hazards. The attached Sample Safe Work Method Statement lists only those common hazards specific to Hebel Wall Systems & other concrete building elements, and some of the common risk control measures that may be used to control those hazards. The Contract Installer should prepare Safe Work Method Statements that address all elements of their work, including the specific elements addressed in this document.

Because job and site conditions vary from project to project, it is essential that Contract Installers identify the particular hazards associated with every installation job they perform and take steps to control the risks associated with each identified hazard. In conducting the Job Safety Analysis the Contract Installer shall be alert for and consider other hazards that may not be listed on the attached forms.

### **SUPERVISION**

The Installation Contractor shall adequately supervise employees to ensure that they understand & follow the safe work methods that are developed.

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Main Activity	Sub Tasks	Potential Hazards	Risk Controls	Responsibility
Installing wall frames, fasteners, cables, light fittings, pipes & ducts	Drilling into concrete slabs, walls & columns	Particles from drilling may damage eyes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wear safety glasses or goggles complying with AS 1337.</li> </ul>	
		Inhalation of silica dust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Person drilling must wear a P1 or P2 half face respirator while drilling.</li> <li>Advise other people who may be affected by the dust from drilling to wear a P1 or P2 half face respirator during drilling.</li> <li>Clean the area regularly by vacuuming or sweeping. Lightly dampen the area before sweeping.</li> </ul>	
		Dust may cause skin irritation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wear gloves complying with AS 2161.3 for mechanical protection when drilling to prevent skin irritation &amp; abrasion</li> <li>Consider the use of long sleeved shirts &amp; long trousers if irritation occurs.</li> <li>Laundry clothing regularly &amp; separately.</li> </ul>	
		Noise may damage hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wear earplugs or earmuffs during drilling.</li> </ul>	
		Fall from height	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use scaffold or step ladder in accordance with manufacturers' instructions &amp; Australian Standards.</li> </ul>	
		Impact or laceration injury to head from contact with obstructions overhead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wear a safety helmet.</li> <li>Assess the area for obstructions before climbing the ladder or scaffold.</li> </ul>	

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	Drilling into Hebel panels	Particles from drilling may damage eyes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wear safety glasses or goggles complying with AS 1336.</li> </ul>	
		Inhalation of silica dust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Person drilling must wear a P1 or P2 half face respirator while drilling.</li> <li>Advise other people who may be affected by the dust from drilling to wear a P1 or P2 half face respirator during drilling.</li> <li>Clean the area regularly by vacuuming or sweeping. Lightly dampen the area before sweeping.</li> </ul>	
		Dust may cause skin irritation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wear gloves complying with AS 2161.3 for mechanical protection when drilling to prevent skin irritation &amp; abrasion.</li> <li>Consider the use of long sleeved shirts &amp; long trousers if irritation occurs.</li> <li>Launder clothing regularly &amp; separately.</li> </ul>	
		Noise may damage hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wear earplugs or earmuffs during drilling.</li> </ul>	
		Fall from height	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use scaffold or step ladder in accordance with manufacturers' instructions &amp; Australian Standards.</li> </ul>	
		Impact or laceration injury to head from contact with obstructions overhead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wear a safety helmet.</li> <li>Assess the area for obstructions before climbing the ladder or scaffold.</li> </ul>	
	Fixing to Hebel panels	Particles may damage eyes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wear safety glasses or goggles complying with AS 1336.</li> </ul>	
		Inhalation of silica dust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dust levels from screwing into Hebel panels do</li> </ul>	

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			not require respiratory protection.	
		Contact with cement based product may cause skin irritation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wear gloves complying with AS 2161.3 for mechanical protection to prevent skin irritation &amp; abrasion.</li> <li>Consider the use of long sleeved shirts &amp; long trousers if irritation occurs.</li> <li>Laundry clothing regularly &amp; separately.</li> </ul>	
<b>Cutting or Chasing of Concrete</b>	Cutting or chasing of concrete slabs, walls & columns with power tools	Blade may shatter on impact with steel reinforcing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use segmented diamond tipped cutting blade with the correct bonding matrix.</li> <li>Wear safety glasses or goggles complying with AS1337 for medium (Class I) or high (Class V) impact.</li> <li>Follow manufacturers' instructions for safe use of tools</li> </ul>	
		Particles from cutting may damage eyes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wear safety glasses or goggles complying with AS1337 for medium (Class I) or high (Class V) impact.</li> <li>Follow manufacturers' instructions for safe use of tools</li> </ul>	
		Inhalation of silica dust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Person operating the power saw or power chaser must wear a P1 or P2 half face respirator during cutting</li> <li>Erect signs to advise other people working within a 3 metre radius of power cutting or chasing to wear a P1 or P2 half face respirator during cutting &amp; chasing.</li> <li>Dust extraction must be fitted to power saws &amp; chasers.</li> </ul>	

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Main Activity	Sub Tasks	Potential Hazards	Risk Controls	Responsibility
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean out the dust cowlings on the saw at least daily to eliminate blockages &amp; maintain good dust extraction.</li> <li>• Adjust dust cowlings on power saws &amp; chasers to provide maximum enclosure for dust collection. As a temporary measure, duct tape can be used to close off excessive openings if the dust cowlings are not totally effective.</li> <li>• Check dust extractors regularly to ensure seals are in good condition &amp; they are providing good suction</li> <li>• Empty dust bags regularly. Ensure that disposable bags are tied off to prevent the dust falling out of the bag. If reusable bags are used, then the contents should be emptied into a plastic bag that is tied off before disposal.</li> <li>• Set the depth of cut to 2mm less than the thickness of the panel on power saws to prevent blow through of dust during cutting</li> <li>• If dust extraction is not fitted to power saws then use hand tools only.</li> <li>• Clean the cutting area regularly by vacuuming or sweeping. Lightly dampen the area before sweeping.</li> </ul>	
		Dust may cause skin irritation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear gloves complying with AS 2161.3 for mechanical protection when handling the product to prevent skin irritation &amp; abrasion.</li> <li>• Consider the use of long sleeved shirts &amp; long</li> </ul>	

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			<p>trousers if irritation occurs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launder clothing regularly &amp; separately.</li> </ul>	
		Noise may damage hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear earplugs or earmuffs during cutting.</li> </ul>	
<b>Cutting or Chasing of Hebel Panels</b>	Cutting or chasing of Hebel panels with power tools	Blade may shatter on impact with steel reinforcing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use segmented diamond tipped cutting blade with the correct bonding matrix.</li> <li>• Wear safety glasses or goggles complying with AS1337 for medium (Class I) or high (Class V) impact.</li> <li>• Follow manufacturers' instructions for safe use of tools</li> </ul>	
		Particles from cutting may damage eyes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear safety glasses or goggles complying with AS1337 for medium (Class I) or high (Class V) impact.</li> <li>• Follow manufacturers' instructions for safe use of tools</li> </ul>	
		Inhalation of silica dust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Person operating the power saw or power chaser must wear a P1 or P2 half face respirator during cutting</li> <li>• Erect signs to advise other people working within a 3 metre radius of power cutting or chasing to wear a P1 or P2 half face respirator during cutting &amp; chasing.</li> <li>• Dust extraction must be fitted to power saws &amp; chasers.</li> <li>• Clean out the dust cawling on the saw at least daily to eliminate blockages &amp; maintain good dust extraction.</li> </ul>	

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjust dust cowlings on power saws &amp; chasers to provide maximum enclosure for dust collection. As a temporary measure, duct tape can be used to close off excessive openings if the dust cowling is not totally effective.</li> <li>• Check dust extractors regularly to ensure seals are in good condition &amp; they are providing good suction</li> <li>• Empty dust bags regularly. Ensure that disposable bags are tied off to prevent the dust falling out of the bag. If reusable bags are used, then the contents should be emptied into a plastic bag that is tied off before disposal.</li> <li>• Set the depth of cut to 2mm less than the thickness of the panel on power saws to prevent blow through of dust during cutting</li> <li>• If dust extraction is not fitted to power saws then use hand tools only.</li> <li>• Clean the cutting area regularly by vacuuming or sweeping. Lightly dampen the area before sweeping.</li> </ul>	
		Dust may cause skin irritation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear gloves complying with AS 2161.3 for mechanical protection when handling the product to prevent skin irritation &amp; abrasion.</li> <li>• Consider the use of long sleeved shirts &amp; long trousers if irritation occurs.</li> <li>• Launder clothing regularly &amp; separately.</li> </ul>	
		Noise may damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear earplugs or earmuffs during cutting.</li> </ul>	

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		hearing		
	Cutting or chasing of Hebel panels with hand tools	Particles from cutting or chasing may damage eyes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wear safety glasses or goggles complying with AS1337.</li> <li></li> </ul>	
		Inhalation of silica dust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Person cutting or chasing must wear a P1 or P2 half face respirator while cutting or chasing.</li> <li>Advise other people who may be affected by the dust from cutting or chasing to wear a P1 or P2 half face respirator during cutting &amp; chasing.</li> <li>Clean the area regularly by vacuuming or sweeping. Lightly dampen the area before sweeping.</li> </ul>	
		Dust may cause skin irritation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wear gloves complying with AS 2161.3 for mechanical protection when cutting or chasing to prevent skin irritation &amp; abrasion.</li> <li>Consider the use of long sleeved shirts &amp; long trousers if irritation occurs.</li> <li>Launder clothing regularly &amp; separately.</li> </ul>	
		Fall from height	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use scaffold or step ladder in accordance with manufacturers' instructions &amp; Australian Standards.</li> </ul>	
		Impact or laceration injury to head from contact with obstructions overhead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wear a safety helmet.</li> <li>Assess the area for obstructions before climbing the ladder or scaffold.</li> </ul>	

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