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Talk No: 20 Title: SAFE STACKING ON SITE

Introduction: Unsafe stacking can cause injuries as a result of collapse, or when materials have to be collected from stacks. In contrast, safe stacking not only reduces risk, but also enhances site efficiency.

## Main points:

- Only stack materials in designated areas ensuring that escape routes, doorways etc, are not obstructed.
- Stack on level, firm surfaces, use packing where appropriate, and never stack materials higher than three times the base width.
- Make sure you wear suitable protective clothing such as gloves and safety boots, and use handling accessories as appropriate.

## **Discussion points:**

- Use machinery where possible eliminating the need for manual handling. Where manual handling is unavoidable, carry out an assessment.
- Stack small pipes in racks, whilst large diameter pipes must be securely chocked at the
- Do not stack pipes in pyramids they are not sufficiently stable.
- Large concrete rings must be laid flat so they cannot roll.
- Small sized timbers should be stacked in racks.
- Bearers should be used for larger timbers and joists use cross packing to keep level.
- Where possible keep different length timbers in different stacks.
- Large prefabricated panels should be stacked flat or in suitable racks they should never be leant against temporary structures, parts of buildings, or where the wind could affect them.
- Store bricks/blocks/palleted materials on level surfaces and ensure heights are controlled - only stack two packs high, and place upper stacks squarely on lower stacks.
- If banding is damaged or materials are displaced then do not stack other materials on top

| - where necessary make lower stacks safe.  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| YOU WERE BORN WITH TWO ARMS, TWO HANDS, TWO LEGS AND TWO FEET – LET'S KEEP IT THAT WAY |  |  |  |  |  |
| Notes:   |  |  |  |  |  |
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