

1. Introduction

This Guidance Note gives advice on the provision of a safe working environment for roofing contractors. It should be read in conjunction with LRWA Guidance Note No. 6 : Safe Use of Liquid Applied Waterproofing Systems, which gives detailed information relevant to the handling, use and application of specific liquid coatings.

There are many sources of information on safety in roof work. The objective of this Guidance Note is to provide a gateway to the relevant sources of advice.

The key to achieving healthy and safe working conditions is to ensure that health and safety issues are understood, planned, controlled, monitored, reviewed and discussed. All aspects of health and safety should be properly considered.

The Health and Safety at Work Act deals with fundamental working practices. Other legislation contributes to the welfare of those undertaking the work and those in the vicinity of the work. Whilst the CDM Regulations may not be a legal requirement on short-term contracts, it is good practice to apply their principles on all roof work.

The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) includes identification of the risks inherent in the process and the relevant occupational exposure standards for the components of products being used. Hazardous components are identified in the CHIP (Chemical Hazard Information and Packaging) Safety Data Sheet issued by product manufacturers. For hazardous products, the CHIP Safety Data Sheet will give Risk (R) and Safety (S) phrases which indicate the severity of the hazard and suggest practices to minimise the risks. These documents should be read and understood before opening and using any product.

In the following sections this Guidance Note considers the safety issues involved in planning the work, working safely and the disposal of waste. A comprehensive publications reference list is included.

2. Planning the Work

It is important to gather as much health and safety information about a project and the site before roofing work begins. Sources of information will include the client, designer, main contractor, contract documents, other contractors working on the site, trade and contractor organisations, materials and equipment suppliers, HSE guidance, British Standards, LRWA Guidance Notes and Code of Practice, and other trade associations.

A survey of the site should be made by a competent qualified person.

3. Working Safely

a) Safety Checklist

The following non-exclusive list shall be considered in relation to safety:

- The Construction (Design and Management) (CDM) Regulations – relationship at time of quote
- Contact with client's CDM Co-ordinator or safety officer
- Safety during initial site visit by estimator
- Scaffold erection and removal

- Delivery, unloading, lifting and storage of materials.
- Provision of edge protection
- Access for inspection purposes. Specific assessment of:
 - Fragility classification of roof (ACR Red and Green books)
 - Roof light (class as fragile)
 - Vents with fumes (prevention of taking in fumes & discharges)
 - Birds (especially sea)
 - Unstable parapets
 - Safety lines (recently tested and certified) / Harnesses / Fall restraint
 - Gutters (check condition)

Note: If the roof or any part of it cannot be assessed beyond all doubt as non-fragile, then it must be treated as fragile. The roof must then be accessed in accordance with the guidance given in the ACR Green Book

- Decisions relating to specification, eg will it be possible to transport equipment, raw materials etc
- Health and safety cost implications – adequate funding should be provided
- Risk assessments should be provided and work methods agreed with CDM Co-ordinator / Safety Officer prior to commencement on site
- Special client requirements for work area, ie site Health & Safety requirements, Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), e.g. hard hats and high visibility jackets/vests, working hours, etc
- Whilst on the job consider: specification, COSHH, working environment, training, site supervision, method of work, waste regulations, disposal of containers
- Safety during final quality checks
- Removal of residual rubbish

b) Working at Height

Falls from height are the most common cause of accidental death in the construction industry. They account for half of those accidentally killed. Compliance with current WAH regulations and HSE guidance on scaffolding etc will help to prevent falls and also injuries to others caused by materials falling from a roof.

c) Essential References

- 'Health & Safety in Roofwork' HSG 33 from HSE Books, 2008 is essential reading for all concerned with the commissioning, design or execution of roofwork or with responsibility for those who work on any new, repair or refurbishment site. Also 'Working on Roofs' INDG 284 from HSE and Guidance Note 7 from the Work at Height Safety Association (WHSA) is recommended.
- The Advisory Committee for Roofwork (ACR) has produced several useful roof safety publications that are available to download on www.roofworkadvice.info
- CDM Regulations – available from HMSO
- COSHH Regulations – available from HMSO or visit the HSE website: www.hse.gov.uk/coshh/
Requirements of the regulations
 - assess the risks
 - decide what precautions are needed
 - prevent or adequately control exposure
 - ensure that control measures are used and maintained
 - monitor exposure
 - carry out appropriate health surveillance
 - Ensure Employees are Properly Informed, Trained and Supervised
- CHIP Regulations – available from HSE
- Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) from individual manufacturers
- In-house safety guidelines published by individual manufacturers
- LRWA Code of Practice
- Roofing contractors' risk assessment documents
- Manufacturers' pack labels
- Carriage of Dangerous Goods Regulations
- NFRC Safety Passport and Data Sheets – available from the National Federation of Roofing Contractors (www.nfrc.co.uk)
- Publications from the Construction Industry Training Board (Construction Skills)
- Short-term Roof Inspection – available from Roofing Cladding & Insulation (March 1998)

- Working with Asbestos Cement (ref HSG 189/2) – available from HSE
- Asbestos Cement Products – Technical Bulletin 24 Technical Bulletin 31: Identification, Removal and Disposal of Asbestos Containing Materials, available from the NFRC
- Publications from the ACR (Advisory Committee For Roofwork) available from website www.roofworkadvice.info.

4. Disposal

Disposal Considerations

LAWS should not be allowed to contaminate drains or watercourses, or be disposed of where ground or surface waters may be affected.

Wastes, including emptied containers, are controlled wastes and should be disposed of in accordance with the Hazardous Waste Regulations and the Control of Pollution Act and the Environmental Protection Act. On an individual product basis, using information contained in the supplier's Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS), advice should be obtained from the Waste Regulation Authority on whether the special regulations apply.

LAWS should be disposed of in accordance with local and national regulations. Further information on disposal methods and contractors is available from the Environmental Services Association (Tel: 020 7824 8882) or www.esa.org.

Transport of Waste Material

Removal of rubbish from site needs to be via contractors transport if appropriately licensed, or a licensed Waste Disposal Company.

LRWA represents a group of manufacturers, applicators and raw material suppliers who are dedicated to best industry practice. Advice can be given, either centrally or from individual manufacturers, with the intention of supplying and applying systems to a client's full satisfaction. LRWA is involved in the preparation of European Technical Approvals, as the UK's official trade body, in conjunction with the BBA and EOTA. The Association produces a series of Guidance Notes, often in collaboration with the leading contractors' representative bodies, thus seek into reinforce the performance and quality potential of liquid roofing systems.

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this publication, it must be emphasised that the Association has itself not verified the information by independent testing: for this reason and because the Association has no control over the precise circumstances in which it will be used the Association, its officers, employees and members can accept no liability arising out of its use, whether by members of the Association or otherwise. The publication is of a technical nature only and makes no attempt to state or conform to building regulations or other legal requirements; compliance with these must be the individual user's own responsibility.

