

Health and Safety Product Data Sheet

Readymix Concrete

Product

Readymix Concrete by Reimer Volumetric Mixers

Application

Readymix concrete is designed to enable the user to cast the plastic material into the required shape prior to hardening – this is helped by using volumetric mixers.

Physical and Chemical characteristics

Readymix concrete is a mixture of aggregate, cement and water. Admixtures may be added to enhance either, or both of, the plastic and hardened states of the concrete. The resultant mixture is abrasive and alkaline.

Main Hazards

Contact with wet concrete can cause skin diseases: Irritant contact dermatitis is caused by a combination of the wetness, alkalinity and abrasiveness of the concrete.

Allergic contact dermatitis is mainly caused by an individual's sensitivity to the chromium compounds in the cement.

Cement burns, a form of skin ulceration, may result from contact with freshly mixed concrete.

The surface treatment and cutting of hardened concrete can create dust which may contain quartz. If inhaled in excessive quantities over prolonged periods respirable dust containing quartz can constitute a long-term health hazard.

Precautions

Direct skin contact with wet concrete should be avoided. It is important not to sit or kneel on the wet material as harmful contact can occur through saturated clothing.

Inhalation of concrete dust should be avoided.

Protective Clothing

Protective clothing should be worn when handling wet concrete, particularly on the arms, hands, legs and feet: e.g. long-sleeved clothing and gloves with full length trousers and impervious boots.

Respiratory protective equipment should be worn during the surface treatment or cutting of hardened concrete where dust is generated.

Transportation and Waste disposal

The carriage of concrete is not subject to hazardous substance conveyance regulations and vehicle labelling is not required. In the event of spillage, entry of material to watercourses should be avoided.

Unused hardened concrete is inert but should be disposed of in accordance with local legal requirements.

Storage

The hardening of concrete can be delayed, extending the period during which the precautions given above should continue to be taken and during which access by unauthorised persons should be prevented.

Emergency Action (if symptoms persist seek medical advice)

Where skin contact occurs with wet concrete, either directly or through saturated clothing, the concrete must be washed off quickly.

Where eye contact occurs the area must be immediately and thoroughly irrigated with water.