

PRODUCT SAFETY AND HANDLING DATA SHEET

HARCON Polycarbonate Rooflights

MANUFACTURER

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PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

HARCON PC and BV rooflights are manufactured from polycarbonate, the strongest thermoplastic material available, under an ISO9001:2000 approved design and manufacturing system. They are available clear, or with a diffused surface to provide even light distribution without loss of light transmission. They are also available as tinted or opaque sheets. The weather surface has a co-extruded UV resistant layer to prevent ultra violet damage to the substrate. HARCON polycarbonate has been tested for fire retardance in accordance with BS476:part 7, and achieves a Class 1 fire rating. It is also deemed to have an SAA fire rating by the Building Regulations.

HARCON PC rooflights are corrugated in-plane rooflights available to match most modern roof sheet profiles, manufactured to BS EN 1013; HARCON BV rooflights are out of plane barrel vault rooflights. Direct contact with plastisol coated sheets must be avoided; the use of barrier tape is recommended.

HANDLING

HARCON polycarbonate rooflights can have sharp edges and corners and should be regarded as a hazard; protective measures such as gloves and safety clothing should be worn when handling these sheets. As sheets have a large surface area they become difficult to handle in windy conditions. Special care should be taken when carrying them up and down ladders and across exposed rooftops. To facilitate handling, individual corrugated sheets may be rolled up parallel to their corrugations and taped and strapped.

STACKING AND STORAGE

Polycarbonate rooflights are usually delivered in loose stacks, facilitating unloading and manouvering by hand. If forklifts are used to lift a stack of sheets care must be taken to avoid damage - use of a separate, sacrificial support sheet may be necessary.

Corrugated sheets should be stacked on flat ground, on 75mm wide wooden battens (free from nails and debris) no more than 1.5m apart. Different profiles on the same stack must be separated with battens, located directly above each other. Barrel vault rooflights are delivered on pallets. Maximum stack height 1.5m.

Polycarbonate rooflights should not be exposed to weather before installation. They should be stored indoors if possible, or under cover to prevent damage from rain and sun. If this is not feasible, then the sheets should be covered with a tarpaulin and carefully banded. **Never** put weights on rooflights.

Do not remove the protective film until ready to be installed, to protect against surface scratching. Note: any increase in temperature (eg. exposure to sunlight) or any heat build up in the stack could result in difficulty removing the protective film.

HEALTH DATA

HARCON polycarbonate roofing sheets present no hazards to health. However precautions should be taken when cutting sheets to ensure the airborne dust concentrations remain within the occupational exposure limit as recommended by the Health and Safety Executive in the latest edition of guidance note EH40¹ (reprinted annually).

Inhalation

There are no significant risks from inhalation, except when cutting quantities of sheets with power tools when exposure to large amounts of dust is possible.

Irritation to the upper respiratory tract may be caused by exposure to high concentrations of airborne dust. The effect should be transitory and leave no permanent disability but the use of face masks is recommended wherever dust is likely to be a problem.

Skin Contact

Direct contact with dust on the skin may cause slight irritation. The severity will vary from individual to individual but in all cases may be reduced or eliminated by wearing suitable protective clothing.

Ingestion

Polycarbonate sheeting has very low toxicity and may be considered biologically inert.

Eye contact

Treatment for particles of polycarbonate dust caught in the eye is as for any other form of dust. Flush the eye with copious quantities of clean water and seek medical attention. When using powered cutting tools always wear goggles.

FIRE AND EXPLOSION HAZARD DATA

HARCON polycarbonate sheeting has been tested in accordance with BS476:part 7. It burns with difficulty and generally requires a continuous external flame source to sustain combustion. Without flashover fire conditions it will tend to extinguish itself. The combustion products have been found to be non-corrosive. In the event of a fire cool with water.

MAINTENANCE

In typical UK conditions, we would expect these sheets to remain serviceable in excess of twenty years, subject to correct maintenance.

Rooflights, fixings and sealants should be inspected for damage every year. Fixings should be retightened or replaced as necessary. Rooflights should be cleaned using warm water and mild detergent to prevent any growth which may attack the protective surface, or dirt accumulation which could lead to heat build up. For cleaning off spillages such as paint or bituminous products suitable solvents include: White Spirit; Isopropanol; Petroleum ether (BP 65); Butanol; Ethyl or Methyl alcohol. Always apply at room temperature and not in direct sunlight, then follow general cleaning instructions as above. The use of harsh chemicals or abrasive cleaners should be avoided.

Rooflights should not be painted over with an opaque covering. This can be dangerous, and may cause premature failure.

CDM REGULATIONS

CDM Regulations require that all risks are assessed and minimised, but do not define any specific measures required to achieve this. HSE Guidance Notes to CDM Regulations refer to unprotected fragile roofing materials as a typical hazard to be avoided. For details on handling and installation recommendations see Technical Bulletins 137,140 and 141.

¹ Currently 10mg/m³

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