

1. Product and company identification

Product name: Decorative Slate Products

Product type and use: All types used for a wide range of construction and civil engineering applications.

Address and telephone number:

Welsh Slate Ltd

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2. Composition/Information on Ingredients Slate

Slate is a metamorphic rock. The composition consists of various combinations of minerals including quartz (typical concentration < 25% crystalline silica).

3. Hazard Identification

Main risks: May cause a long term health hazard if respirable dust produced from working with slate is inhaled in excessive quantities over a long period of time (years).

Inhalation: If any respirable dust – produced whilst working with slate is inhaled in excessive quantities over a long period (years), it may create a long-term health hazard.

Skin contact: May cause skin irritation e.g. redness, eczema. Can cause cuts and abrasions.

Contact with eyes: May cause eye irritation.

Ingestion: May cause irritation if swallowed.

Environmental risks: May cause contamination if slate fines are allowed to enter the local water course.

4. First Aid Measures

Inhalation: Not applicable.

Skin contact: Wash skin with water. For cuts and abrasions; clean with water and apply sterile dressing if required.

Contact with eyes: Wash out with clean water and seek medical attention if required.

Ingestion: Wash out mouth with clean water and seek medical attention if required.

5. Fire-Fighting Measures

Extinguishing media: Not applicable.

Protective equipment: Not applicable.

Special hazards: Not applicable.

Note: Slate is non-combustible / flammable.

6. Accidental Release Measures

Personal precautions: Use appropriate protective clothing (See section 8).

Environmental precautions: Do not let slate fines enter the local water course, any run off should be contained.

Method of cleaning up on ground: Douse with water to reduce respirable dust and ensure environmental precautions are implemented.

Method of cleaning up in water: Inform the appropriate local authority.

7. Handling and Storage

Storage conditions: Not applicable.

Storage stability: Not applicable.

Note: There are no special measures / conditions.

8. Exposure Controls/Personal Protection

Engineering measures to reduce exposure: When working slate eg dry drilling, cutting etc the working area and methods should be designed to incorporate a Local Exhaust Ventilation (LEV) system.

Personal protective equipment:

Inhalation: Respiratory protection should be suitable for hazardous dusts in accordance with HSE publication HSG 53.

Skin: Protective gloves should be worn.

Eye protection: Eye protection should be dust tight type to BS EN 166.

Work exposure limit (WEL): Respirable crystalline silica (RCS) has a maximum exposure limit of 0.1mg/m³ per 8-hour Time Weighted Average. All dusts have a Respirable Occupational Exposure Standard of 4mg/m³ and an Inhalable Occupational Exposure Standard of 10mg/m³ per 8-hour Time Weighted Average.

9. Physical and Chemical Properties

State: Solid.

Colour: Heather / Blue Grey.

Odour: None.

pH: 8.7

Boiling temperature (°C): Not applicable.

Melting / decomposition temp (°C): Not applicable.

Density (kg/m³): 2860kg/m³ (Heather) and 2830kg/ m³ (Blue Grey)

Solubility in water (weight-%): Non-soluble.

Solubility in organic solvents: Non-soluble.

10. Stability and Reactivity

Conditions to avoid: None.

Material to avoid: None.

Hazardous decomposition products: None.

11. Toxicological Information

General information: Prolonged exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS) slate dust may cause silicosis. Long-term exposure to high levels of RCS dust can also lead to an increased risk of developing lung cancer.

Note: If the dust given off from working with slate is fine enough to breathe into the lungs through the nose and mouth this is termed "respirable". Once it is breathed in, RCS dust can be retained in the lungs for many years.

12. Ecological Information

Mobility: Non-volatile.

Persistence and degradability: Non-biodegradable.

Bio accumulative potential: No bio accumulative potential.

13. Disposal Information

Disposal of product: Slate is an inert material and any waste produced should be disposed of in accordance with local legal regulations.

Disposal of packaging: Must be disposed of in accordance with regional or national regulations.

14. Transport Information

Transport warning label

Packaging group: Decorative slate products do not require labelling and are not subject to hazardous substance conveyance regulations.

ADR/RID: Not applicable.

IMO-IMDG code: Not applicable.

IATA: Not applicable.

UN No: Not applicable.

15. Regulatory Information

Labelling according to EU directives

DANGER symbol:



Risk phrases:

H320 – Irritating to eyes

H317 – Repeated exposure may cause dry skin or cracking.

H333 – Harmful: Possible risk of irreversible effects through inhalation.

Precautionary phrases:

P261 – Avoid breathing dust.

P262 – Avoid contact with eyes.

P280 – Wear suitable gloves and eye / face protection.

P284 – In case of insufficient ventilation wear suitable respiratory equipment.

P271 – Use only in well-ventilated areas.

P273 – Avoid release to the environment.

CAS No: None.

16. Other Information

Other information: Dry dust from natural slate is a substance hazardous to health and requires employers to carry out an assessment of risk in accordance with the COSHH Regulations 2002.

Legal disclaimer: The above information is believed to be correct but does not purport to be all inclusive and shall be used only as a guide. This company shall not be held liable for any harm or damage resulting from handling or from contact with the above products.