



COSHH ASSESSMENT CA23: PORTLAND CEMENT

1 SUBSTANCE

Name	Portland Cement
Known as	Cement Powder
Description	An odourless white/grey powder mainly insoluble in water. Principal constituents calcium silicate compounds of alumina & gypsum. Mixed with water, sand, aggregate to produce concrete or mortar.
Use	Used as a constituent of mortar, concrete & lean mix.

2 MANUFACTURER

Manufacturer	Various e.g. Blue Circle
Supplier	Various e.g. Blue Circle

3 APPLICATION

Hand	Yes
Machine	Yes
Indoor	Yes
Outdoor	Yes
Brush	No
Spray	No

4 TOXIC INGREDIENTS

Ingredient	MEL	OES LTEL	OES STEL
Inhalable dust	-	10mg/m ³	-
Respirable dust	-	4mg/m ³	-

MEL: Maximum Exposure Limit
OES LTEL: Occupational Exposure Standard short term exposure limits (usually 15 minutes)
OES STEL Occupational Exposure Standard Long term (8-hour Time Weighted Average or TWA)

5 PEOPLE AT RISK

Employees	Site operatives.
Other Personnel	None.
Members of Public	None.

6 HAZARDS

Frequency	Frequent on Civils' sites. Exposure limits highly unlikely to be reached in normal usage
Health Risks	Irritant to skin & eyes. May cause allergic & irritant contact dermatitis. Chemical burns. Harmful if swallowed.
PPE	Footwear – EN345 200 joules. Gloves – EN420 (Low risk nuisance gloves). Overalls – To cover whole body. Eyes – Goggles to EN166-1-B (Dust). Respiratory – Disposable masks to EN149-FFP2
Hazard Classification	Irritant.
Assessment of Risk	Risk of serious damage to eyes. Normal use has no harmful effect on dry skin. Risk increases when water is added or dust settles on damp skin.
Fire	Non flammable. Non explosive.

7 STORAGE

Spillage	Sweep up spillage of dry powder & re-use. Wash down mixing area with water. Wash skin if concrete or mortar gets inside gloves or boots.
Storage	Bags should be stacked in a safe & stable manner. Keep clear of ground. Keep in dry condition. When handling bags due regard should be given to the Manual Handling Regulations. Appropriate PPE should be worn as bags may have small amounts of cement on outer surface.
Waste Disposal	Disposal as industrial waste.

8 FIRST AID

Skin	Wash with soap & water. If pain or other skin trouble seek medical advice.
Eyes	Wash immediately with clean water for at least 15 minutes & seek medical advice.
Inhalation	Move to fresh air. If nose or airways become inflamed seek medical advice.
Ingestion	DO NOT induce vomiting. Wash out mouth with water. Drink plenty of water. Seek medical advice.