

PACKAGING

HPT metal faced composite insulated panels are stacked horizontally with protective jiffy foam laid between the ends of each panel; they are then wrapped in polythene and strapped on top of a 3mm hardboard sheet to prevent forklift damage and protect against the weather. The pack is supported by a number of polystyrene bearers, (150mm x 100mm), regularly spaced below the hardboard to keep the panels elevated from the floor avoiding subsequent dirt and possible damage.

UNLOADING

All deliveries are made by road transport to the project site, subsequent offloading and storage is the responsibility of the customer. Suitable plant or equipment should be made available for the safe unloading of packs of panels. Packs should be unloaded with the following considerations:

- Lift only one pack at a time.
- Lift pack under the hardboard protection ensuring the unloading area is clear and level. Longer, thicker and consequently heavier panels should be offloaded with the forklift / lifting equipment spreading the load across the pack, as directly in the middle will greatly increase the chances of the panel bending.
- All pack edges are vulnerable at time of unloading and extra care should be taken.
- Sufficient manpower and/or mechanical lifting devices must be used to prevent damage to the panels during unloading.
- For crane offloading please seek specialist advice.

STORAGE

For short-term storage, panels can be stored outside, off the ground as long as the protective polythene sheet is unbroken.

Open packs should be stored internally or a protective polythene sheet should be replaced.

Packs should be stored as close to the build as possible without relocation leading to possible handling damage.

HANDLING

Although surface finishes on HPT panels have a high abrasive resistance, care should be taken when handling panels to prevent damage.

Metal faced panels should never be dragged from a stack as small pieces of swarf may score the facing. The panel should be lifted clear of the pack by lifting one end and then the other, alternatively panels can be turned on their edges and then lifted.

Caution must be taken when handling panels with pre-formed rebates or thermal breaks.

CUTTING OF HPT PANELS

The bonding characteristics of any sandwich panel can be adversely affected by the use of inappropriate cutting equipment. HPT recommend the use of the following:

Saw - a hand held 'Evolution 180 Steel Cutting Circular Saw – 1200 watt'

Blade - 180mm Steel Cutting Blade with special 'Double Triple Chip Tooth Form'

When cutting panels, HPT recommend the depth of the blade to be set at the following: -

Along panel length – 5mm

Along panel width – 20mm

The core material may then be removed using thin cutting blade.

Failure to adhere to above advice may result in damage to panel facings.

HPT **do not** recommend the use of a jig saw when cutting insulated metal panels. The action of the blade can significantly damage any type of panel at the point of cut.

Following any cutting or installation the panel surfaces should be checked for any remaining swarf.

All swarf must be removed promptly to prevent possible damage to the panel face.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Please refer to the HPT 'COSHH Information' document for further detail, available to download from our website.