COSHH assessment — Sulfrock board

Manufacturer: Sulfycor New Materials Co., Limited | Supplier / brand: Sulfrock Ltd | Draft for task and site approval

Document	Assessment scope	Status
SR-COSHH-001 · 29 Sep 2026	Receipt, storage, handling, cutting, drilling, sanding, cleanup and disposal of 12 mm magnesium sulphate board.	DRAFT — site manager to complete controls and sign before use.

1. Product and evidence considered

The supplied 12 mm board specification describes magnesium oxide, magnesium sulphate, non-woven fabric, four layers of fibreglass mesh, perlite and chips. Board formats described are 1200 × 2400, 1200 × 2700 and 1200 × 3000 mm. This assessment concerns the finished board and dust generated when it is worked; it is not a safety data sheet or a classification of the full formulation.

Intertek report 250613005SHF-001 (4 July 2025) recorded negative results for six asbestos analytes and formaldehyde not detected below 0.02 ppm for a submitted 18 mm MgO board. Sulfycor reports common raw materials across board thicknesses, but the report identifies that sample only. Do not treat the formaldehyde chamber result as a cutting-dust exposure measurement or a product-wide clearance.

2. Who can be exposed and how

Task / route	Potential harm and persons affected	Uncontrolled risk
Power cutting, drilling, routing, sanding; inhalation	Airborne mineral / composite dust can irritate airways and contribute to occupational lung disease. Operators and nearby workers are most exposed.	High
Dust in eyes or on skin; incidental ingestion	Dust can irritate eyes or skin. Hand-to-mouth transfer is possible during eating or smoking.	Medium
Sweep-up, emptying extraction, waste handling	Dust can be re-suspended and expose cleaners, maintenance staff and others.	Medium

Risk ratings are a planning aid (High / Medium / Low), not measured exposure values. Assessment of manual handling, sharp edges, machinery, noise, vibration and fire belongs in separate task/site risk assessments.

Controls and safe working method

Use these controls together. Confirm the actual tool, extraction, duration, ventilation and neighbouring activities at each workplace.

3. Before work

1. Obtain the current Sulfycor product safety information and confirm the exact board formulation, classification, any crystalline silica content, constituent workplace exposure limits, and advice on cutting and wet methods. The available specification is not an SDS.

2. Reduce cutting by ordering boards pre-cut or pre-drilled where practical. Plan a designated work area away from other trades, visitors and air intakes. Restrict access and brief workers on this assessment.

3. Check the cutting tool and compatible on-tool dust extraction. Use a suitable M- or H-class extraction unit with a maintained filter; inspect hoses, seals and collection capacity before starting. A competent person must carry out statutory thorough examination and testing of local exhaust ventilation at least every 14 months.

4. During cutting, drilling and cleanup

4. Do not dry cut, drill or sand with a powered tool unless effective dust extraction is operating. Stop if visible dust escapes the control zone, the extractor fails or dust accumulates. Consider wet cutting only when the manufacturer permits it and electrical/slip risks are controlled.

5. For dust-generating work where the site assessment indicates residual inhalation risk, provide suitable RPE with an assigned protection factor of at least 20, such as an FFP3 disposable mask or a half-mask with P3 filter. Tight-fitting masks require an individual face-fit test and a clean-shaven seal area. RPE supplements extraction; it does not replace it.

6. Wear suitable safety glasses/goggles and work gloves; protect exposed skin and wash before eating, drinking or smoking. Do not eat or drink in the work area. Keep contaminated work clothing out of clean areas.

7. Collect offcuts promptly. Use a suitable M/H-class vacuum for fine dust, or damp methods where appropriate. Do not dry sweep or use compressed air. Empty dust into sealed bags without raising a plume; wash hands afterwards.

5. Exposure checks and review

The supervisor checks extraction, housekeeping and RPE at the start of each shift and after a change of task. Arrange competent personal dust sampling if cutting is frequent, intensive, indoors or controls are uncertain; check relevant WELs once the ingredient data is received. Consider occupational-health advice on health surveillance if a continuing exposure risk remains. Review after incidents, complaints, changed tools or new material information.

Response, completion and approval

This page records site decisions required before the assessment becomes an operational instruction.

6. First aid, spill and waste

Event	Immediate action
Dust inhaled	Move to fresh air; stop the dusty task and correct controls. Obtain medical advice for persistent coughing, wheezing or breathlessness.
Dust in eyes	Rinse gently with clean water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses if easy. Seek medical advice if irritation continues.
Dust on skin	Wash with water and mild soap. Seek advice if irritation persists.
Large dust release	Keep others away; restore extraction or use damp / vacuum cleanup. Do not sweep or blow down.
Waste	Collect offcuts and dust in closed containers or sealed bags. Confirm local waste classification and disposal route with the site / waste contractor; do not discharge slurry into drains.

7. Information and actions to complete

Item to verify before issue	Responsible / record
Current manufacturer SDS or equivalent board safety information; formulation and crystalline silica / other mineral content.	Sulfrock / Sulfycor: _____
Tools, extraction specification, LEV examination record and working-area arrangements.	Site manager: _____
RPE selection and face-fit records; training; exposure monitoring / health surveillance decision.	Site manager: _____
Site-specific location, work frequency, nearby persons and waste route.	Project: _____

8. Approval and review

Site / project	Assessor	Approver	Next review
_____	_____	_____	_____
Assessment date: _____	Signature: _____	Signature: _____	Date: _____

References used: Sulfycor 12 mm MgO Board Specification (supplied); Intertek 250613005SHF-001 (18 mm sample); HSE, How to carry out a COSHH risk assessment, Construction dust, Construction dust: Dry sweeping, and Workplace exposure limits.

HSE guidance: www.hse.gov.uk/coshh/basics/assessment.htm · www.hse.gov.uk/construction/healthrisks/hazardous-substances/construction-dust.htm

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