Health Impacts Declaration

# Description of product

The product is structural steelwork used to form and support buildings and other structures.

Structural steelwork is fabricated from steel sections and steel plate by cutting and then welding the parts into assemblies. These are then surface treated, transported to a construction site, and installed. Installation involves erecting the assemblies and then bolting them together, and in place. Sometimes welding is also required on site.

# Safety precautions

A Safety Data Sheet (SDS) is not required for this product.

During transport and installation, common construction hazards arise, including those from loading & unloading, working at heights, falling objects, use of heavy machinery, manual handling, etc. These should be addressed as part of overall construction site safety management.

Finished steel structures are fixed in place and sealed, and as such present a very low risk to the health and safety of end users during their usual life expectancy. This means that they do not require an SDS. Nevertheless, users need to be mindful of the following:

* Fire damage: Steel structures will melt and lose their strength when subjected to intense heat. This risk can be offset by the application of fire-resistant coatings and by following standard fire safety protocols.
* Corrosion: Coatings are applied to prevent corrosion that are appropriate for the structure’s environment and use, however, regular inspections are recommended to check that excessive corrosion has not occurred.
* Maintenance: If excessive corrosion occurs it must be remediated before any risk of structural failure arises. This involves safely removing the rust and re-applying the appropriate coatings, which should be done using the recommended safety protocols for these activities and the products involved.

# Summary of lifecycle hazards and safeguards

The table below summarises the lifecycle hazards and safeguards for structural steelwork.

| Health Impact Identified | Method Of Identification | Relevant Safeguards | Transport | Installation | Use and Maintenance | End of life |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Serious injury from construction-related activity | Site safety management – Site risk assessments | Implementation of relevant SWMS and associated controls, for example, safety barriers, equipment inspections, and PPE. | *✓* | *✓* |  | *✓* |
| Serious injury due to fire-related structural failure | Regular inspections of building or structure | Use of fire-proof coatings in high-risk environments and standard fire safety protocols. |  |  | *✓* |  |
| Serious injury due to corrosion-related structural failure | Regular inspections of building or structure | Timely remediation of detected excessive corrosion. |  |  | *✓* |  |