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RISK ASSESSMENT REPORT THE CONSTRUCTION (DESIGN & MANAGEMENT) REGULATIONS

Access Covers and Frames

This report has been prepared to provide the client with risk assessment information for use during the construction phase of the above project and for inclusion in subsequent Health & Safety files regarding maintenance/cleaning work associated with the removal/replacement of access cover components.

This report relates to the following product:-

- Gatic 2000 access covers and frames manufactured from either grey cast or ductile iron, black bitumen coated, and recessed for infilling with concrete.

1. There are no direct hazards associated with the materials or substances employed in the manufacture of the above products.
2. Covers and frames should be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Covers and frames should be installed flush with the surrounding floor to avoid tripping hazards.
3. Component Handling (during installation)

Component parts of the above products and in particular the individual access covers and removable support joists may exceed the maximum weight for single person lift recommended under current Health & Safety Legislation.

Care should be exercised when lifting/moving these component parts using:-

- (a) Recommended manual lifting practices, employing adequate number of operatives, or
- (b) Certified mechanical lifting devices, using lifting keys suitable for the purpose and ensuring that adequate packing is employed to protect the product when using strops, chains, etc.

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Please note that standard lifting keys supplied with the products are suitable for manual use only. Keys suitable for mechanical lifting are available from the manufacturer and will be supplied with relevant test certificate.

The weight of the cover components may be twice more than the unfilled weight.

4. Component Handling (after installation)

Access covers should only be removed/replaced using the correct lifting keys supplied with the products.

Cover weights may exceed the maximum weight for single person lift recommended under current Health & Safety Legislation.

Hydraulically operated lifting devices are available to minimise handling risks and details are available from the cover manufacturer. Keys for use with the mechanical lifting equipment are available from the manufacturer and will be supplied with relevant test certificate.

Support beams should be removed using adequate strops.

Care should be exercised to prevent access cover panels and support members falling into the chamber/duct and damaging the enclosed services/equipment.

Components should be handled carefully to prevent damage to cover and frame edges.

Cover and frame seatings should be carefully cleaned and re-greased with graphite grease during routine annual maintenance periods and whenever covers are removed. All dirt and debris should be removed to enable covers to seat properly in their respective frames. This will ensure that the covers are non-rocking, safely transmit imposed loads and avoid tripping hazards.

Normal safety practices, such as the erection of safety barriers and warning signs, should be followed when cover components are removed from their frames.

PB/RH
21 September 1999