

TEST CERT VS PRODUCT CERTIFICATION

When accident statistics are quoted, it is all too easy to forget that behind them are real people – honest, hardworking, decent people. Accidents are one of the significant contributors to 'cost' in the construction industry. There is plenty of evidence to show that good health and safety is an integral part of an efficiently run site operation.

Employers have a legal duty to minimize the risk of injury by taking reasonable care and addressing the health and safety of their employees. This includes ensuring equipment on site is safe and fit for the purpose intended.

This responsibility extends to such equipment as mortar tubs. When one thinks of what damage a half-ton of mortar falling from 100 feet in the air would do, we see the importance of this obligation. Mortar tubs manufacturer Sturdy Products Ltd is proactive in assuring good practice and safe standards through information and specification.

"Specification and standards are all very well but they must be certified on an on-going basis," says John Hanlon, Sturdy Products Ltd Managing Director. The difference between once off 'test certificates' versus 'products certification' is sometimes not appreciated. Any unscrupulous manufacturer can make a 'once off' strong product, have it tested and produce a 'test certificate'. "All this does is confirm that a single product passed a test. What is needed is independent, on-going product and production certification," says Hanlon.

Ongoing random testing and traceability by Sturdy gives contract managers and safety officers peace of mind in knowing that each and every tub is consistently manufactured to a set specification. Every mortar tub purchaser should insist on receiving (at a minimum) a copy of certain documentation, which should include the following:

- ▶ Specification to which the product is manufactured
- ▶ The test regime the product passed
- ▶ Regularity of product certification
- ▶ Level of product liability insurance available with the product
- ▶ Fully traceable records
- ▶ User instructions and risk assessment procedures for the product.

On-going independent product certification gives you peace of mind and helps protect the health and safety of all construction workers. For further information, visit www.sturdyproducts.com or call 0800 783 7043, or e-mail sturdyproducts.com

