



Trussed Rafter Association

Product Data Sheet

Sheet No. 9 - November 2005

Health & Safety Policy for the Loading, Haulage, Delivery and Erection of Trussed Rafters on Site - A definition of responsibilities

(These Guidelines have been developed in association with the Health & Safety Executive as a voluntary code of practice for the Trussed Rafter industry)

LOADING TRUSSES

The Truss Fabricator will either be responsible for in-house haulage or for selecting a competent Haulier. In either case he shall ensure that trailers suitably adapted for the safe delivery of trussed rafters are used.

The Truss Fabricator will be responsible for providing the Contractor with details of the weight, physical dimensions, configuration and layout of the trusses to be delivered in advance of delivery.

Details concerning weights of bundles of trusses and their banding will be provided by the Truss Fabricator at time of delivery.

NOTE 1 - For TRA members only a specimen risk assessment for the loading of vehicles is available from the TRA 'Members Only' website or direct from the Secretary (see H & S Notes 6)

HAULAGE OF TRUSSES

Where haulage is not to be provided in-house, the Truss Fabricator is responsible for the appointment of a competent Haulier. Competent in this context will mean a Haulier that complies with all legislation and provides all the drivers to be employed in delivering trusses with both general and product related training.

The Truss Fabricator will ensure that every driver has received suitable Health and Safety training

before being allowed to leave the truss fabrication yard.

NOTE 2 - For TRA Members use only see H & S Notes 7, 'Check List for Hauliers of Trussed Rafters' and 'Driver Induction Training including Driver Code of Practice' both available as downloads from the TRA Members only website or direct from the Secretary.

UNLOADING, TRANSPORT ON SITE AND STORAGE OF TRUSSED RAFTERS

The Contractor is responsible for preparing a safe working method for the unloading, transport on site and storage of trussed rafters (*See NOTE 4 over*).

Should the safe working method identify any unusual requirements the Contractor should notify the Truss Fabricator before delivery.

The Contractor is responsible for the provision of appropriate equipment and manpower to comply with this safe working method and for the training of the manpower and maintenance of the equipment.

The Contractor is responsible for providing suitable access for the truss delivery lorry, level hard-standing for unloading and the provisions for the safe separation of pedestrians from the delivery and off-loading process.

Where a crane is used to off-load the Contractor is responsible for providing a slinger/banksman

suitably trained in off-loading trusses. The hiring of the crane is the Contractor's responsibility.

If asked by the Contractor the Truss Fabricator and the Haulier will, where appropriate, cooperate in the development of a safe working method for these activities

NOTE 3 - If the contract is for the supply and erection the Truss Fabricator may undertake responsibility for crane hire, in which case he will also be responsible for providing competent operators and for developing a safe working practice.

Whilst on site the safety of the delivery driver shall be the responsibility of the Contractor. However, the delivery driver shall be empowered to refuse to off-load if any aspect of the safe working method is contravened such that health and safety is compromised.

CONSTRUCTION OF ROOFS

BUILDING DESIGN - THE CDM REGULATIONS

The Truss Fabricator is not the Building Designer. The Building Designer, usually the Architect, is assumed by the Truss Fabricator to be a competent person within the meaning of Health and Safety legislation and, by specifying timber trussed rafters for the roof structure, is deemed to have taken responsibility for choosing a design solution which satisfies CDM requirements.

Where such information would not be obvious to a competent Building Designer, the Truss Fabricator will convey to him clear information on, for example, truss weights, dimensions, configurations and the layout and erection sequence for trusses.

The Building Designer will be responsible for ensuring the scheme of trusses proposed by the Truss Fabricator satisfies the requirements of the C.D.M. regulations.

ERECTING TRUSSED RAFTERS

Unless the contract is for supply and erect, the Truss Fabricator's responsibility in the development of safe working methods relating to truss erection shall be limited to providing information and assistance in development of the safe working plan.

However the Truss Fabricator does have a duty of care to convey to the contractor any information which would not be obvious to an experienced competent contractor. This could include specific requirements for the erection sequence of trusses or the specification of temporary bracing required to ensure stability during erection.

NOTE 4 - TRA publish the 'Technical Handbook - Site Installation Guide' which includes general information relating to health & safety on site as well as hints on correct storage and handling of trussed rafters.

Trussed rafter manufacturers are advised to send a copy of this Product Data Sheet to their insurers or insurance brokers to ensure that their activities are covered under the terms of existing insurance policies and to inform insurers, in writing, if they undertake any activities which extend their responsibilities further.

HSE provide guidance on their website for delivering safely. Visit: www.hse.gov.uk/workplacetransport/information/cooperation.htm for more information.

Further detailed reading on trussed rafter roof construction can also be found in the 'Technical Handbook - Site Installation Guide' published by TRA and available from the address below.



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