



HAZARD ALERT

MECHANICAL MANOEUVRING OF BATTEN

Safe loading/unloading of products - batten

Handling of materials with the use of a forklift truck (FLT) can be fraught with challenges, even more so when manoeuvring large lengths of timber. Timber when wet naturally expands, and contracts as it dries. With this in mind, we cannot always be sure of the exact weight of the product if stored outside, as there is no way to determine the amount of water absorbed by the product during inclement weather conditions.

When performing the loading/unloading procedure, your forklift truck should be chosen by considering the type of stock that you will need it to handle. Key considerations include:

- the maximum weight of the known product
- the amount being lifted at one time and
- length

How to manage the risk

- When handling wet batten, use the highest rated FLT available as per your training and company procedure
- When manoeuvring batten over 4 metres in length, this should be moved 1 pack of batten maximum of 1 at a time (as delivered)
- Keep the centre of gravity low and avoid off-centre loading. Off-centre loads could cause tip-over or falling loads
- Never travel with batten at height
- Slowly operate the forklift truck when picking up or placing a long or wide load, or when turning with such a load (ensure you have enough room to turn safely)



If in any doubt regarding the safe loading / unloading of batten, please refer to health and safety guidance

If you have any questions, please speak to a member of the SR Timber team
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