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1. Handling

1.1 Site conditions

While it is the contractor's responsibility to ensure that materials delivered to the installation site are safeguarded from the time of his purchase until he hands over the finished ceiling, specifiers will find it useful to know what conditions must be observed to obtain best results.

1.2 Site storage

Site storage and handling to the place of installation is generally provided by the Building Contractor. He must be informed as to the desirability of flat, dry, clean and safe storage facilities.

Armstrong pack their products so they will withstand careful site handling. Shrink-wrapping is not waterproof. As a carton may be handled many times from manufacturer to erection, any rough handling, rolling of cartons or dropping cartons on their edges may cause the product to deteriorate. With the exception of metal tiles (see below), cartons should be stored and stacked with the tiles face to face and without any other heavy objects on top of them.

Metal tiles are supplied in cardboard cartons, which may also be stacked on pallets and secured with plastic shrink-wrapping. Care should be taken when manhandling cartons, as their weight and size will vary with product type, and if necessary more than one person should be used to carry them. Cartons should be stored in a clean, dry area with the tiles standing on their sides and no more than four boxes high.

Consideration should be given to the advice of the HSE regarding the manual handling of heavy cartons. An assessment should be made of any associated risks and if necessary mechanical lifting equipment should be used.

