

Set Construction and Carpentry Operation

Relevant Legislation and Documents

OSH Guideline for Health & Safety in construction

Hazardous Substances & New Organisms (HSNO) Act 1996

(See fire safety and fire retardant section)

Most hazards associated with carpentry and other set and prop manufacture/repair are associated with:

- the material the set was constructed with and the dusts that can be generated;
- the types of chemicals associated with construction; and
- the plant and equipment used in manufacture.

Sets constructed of certain substances can place those required to cut into them at increased risk of disease if those sets are made of certain timbers whose dusts may be carcinogenic or contain hazardous substances such as arsenic, styrene or formaldehyde. It is important that all those involved in activities which may generate some type of dust from set construction can identify the material of construction to then adopt appropriate control strategies. This includes control strategies in case of emergency such as fire. Be aware of any risks associated with timbers treated with light organic solvent preservative as PPE's would be required.

The material used in construction is also significant when considering manual handling risks to those required to handle the loads but also falling and other risks to those personnel such as performers who have to interact with the set. The set designer must take these factors into consideration when specifying materials to be used.

Risk assessment for sets must be undertaken at the design stage and progressively as required through the construction, installation and strike phases of a production.

Appropriate dust management systems and use of appropriate extraction devices must be utilised as appropriate in workshops.

Information regarding chemicals used in the set construction must be passed onto the set installer/repairer to ensure that these personnel are made aware of potential risks. Safety Data Sheets shall be provided to the installer of all glues, adhesives and paints that were used in set construction so that personnel are aware of potential risks when required to modify sets or props.