TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

Title: **GRC CLADDING – SITE HANDLING**
Ref: **TDS05**
Issue Date: **January 2013**
Version: **01**

GRC Cladding components are transported to the work site by articulated semi-trailers unless stated otherwise in our quotations.

Units are packed either:

1. Vertically in crates.
2. Horizontally on pallets
3. Inclined on “A” frames.

Wherever possible arrangements should be made for the semi-trailer to be left on site and used as a storage area for the GRC. During a contract, co-ordinated deliveries will result in a full trailer being left and the empty one returned to our works. These deliveries would be co-ordinated by our contracts department.

In the event the above is not practical, or possible the goods should be offloaded and stored on a firm, level, well-drained area. This should be away from other materials to avoid the possibility of damage or contaminates causing staining etc.

The responsibility of offloading the goods rests with the customer. During offloading great care must be taken to ensure that lifting equipment does not come into contact with the items causing damage to corners, edges or other architectural surfaces.

The GRC should be fully covered and protected during storage. It should not be removed from the delivery crate, pallet or frame until the point of installation.

Lifting of GRC cladding components should always be carried out by mechanical methods. The GRC can be lifted using lifting loops to cast in sockets, lifting straps or vacuum lifters. Please note the use of vacuum lifters is not recommended on pattern formed surfaces. The approximate weight of each item is detailed on the factory label and should be referred to before lifting

During the lifting operation, components should be lifted slowly from the crate, pallet or frame. An operative should be at ground level to supervise the operation and have direct communication with the crane or similar operator. If any binding occurs during lifting the panel should be lowered and any obstruction removed.

Where items have been packed horizontally and are to be installed vertically the transition from one orientation to the other should be carried out with great care. Ideally a rotating vacuum lifter should be used however if this is not possible panels can be lifted from vertical to horizontal with hooks or

similar. This should be carried out with two crane lines however if only one is available great care must be taken. The operation should be carried out very slowly ensuring no sudden stresses are applied to the component which could cause damage or twisting.

Once the components are in the correct orientation they can be lifted into the install position. Full reference must be made to the installation details.

Prior to the installation suitable risk assessments should be made by the installers and all operatives suitably equipped with appropriate PPE.

For details on repairs and cleaning please refer to TDS04