

4.3 Handling

When lifting, moving and stacking panels, edge protection should be provided to avoid damage by lifting ropes and/or forklift tines.

When handling pre-finished panels, it is essential to avoid damage or dirt on the finished surfaces. Pre-finished panels should be lifted from the stack and not slid.

In the case of manual handling of panels, compliance with the relevant Health and Safety recommendations should be maintained at all times. This includes the wearing of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment such as suitable gloves and safety shoes. In the case of any doubt, guidance can be sought from the UK Health and Safety Executive. HSE recommend a maximum manual lifting weight at knuckle height of 25kg. In relation to the maximum safe lifting weights, some typical weights of common panels are given in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 Typical weights of some common panels

Panel type	Thickness (mm)	Typical panel weight (kg) for given panel sizes (mm)		
		610x2440mm	1220x2440mm	1220x3660mm
particleboard	15	14	29	43
	19	18	36	55
	25	24	48	72
	32	31	61	92
flaxboard	15	10	20	30
	19	13	26	38
	25	17	34	50
	32	21	42	62
CBPB	12	21	42	63
	16	29	58	87
	22	39	78	117
MDF	12	14	28	42
	15	17	35	52
	19	22	44	66
	32	37	75	112
OSB	18	17	34	51
hardboard	6	9	17	26
softwood plywood	9	8	15	22
hardwood plywood	15	12	25	37
hardwood plywood	9	10	19	28
hardwood plywood	15	16	30	45