

Kierbeck Safe Box Stillage System

(incorporating 'builders bags')



Background

To address the problem of safe, cost-effective handling of small items, Kierbeck developed the Safe Box Stillage System. This document is intended to explain the usage relationship between 'builders bags' (otherwise known as FIBCs) and Safe Boxes, and how they are to be treated from a health and safety perspective.

Builders Bags

Kierbeck branded 'builders bags' (of the type often used by builders merchants) are cost-effective for storing and moving small components (e.g. small links). Although the polypropylene bags are comprehensively tested to a safe working load of 1 tonne (certificates are downloadable from the Kierbeck website), it is important to note that Kierbeck makes no claims for the suitability of builders bags, other than to suitably contain and transport its materials from factory to the site unloading point. Filled bags are tagged with their contents, and Kierbeck factory personnel check label weights to ensure they are not overloaded.

Although widely used across the construction sector, some contractors do regard FIBCs as being unsuitable for lifting materials around their sites. This is due to risk of the material tearing (particularly after damage or repeated use) as well as the bag's tendency to deform in shape (on lifting) because of load settlement. In many cases, contractors will cut off the lifting loops as soon as the bag has been placed in location to prevent subsequent lifting by this method.

Kierbeck builder's bags are normally retained by the site and charged accordingly.

Safe Boxes

In response to customer requests for a system to move small rebar links around construction sites, Kierbeck introduced the Safe Box Stillage System. These boxes have been designed as a site-utilised carrier system for builders bags, and NOT for direct/loose fill.

On site, customers can use individual Safe Boxes to relocate/move any number of builders bags around the site. On this basis, the customer would normally only need a very small number of Safe Boxes (typically say 1-4 delivered at the outset) in order to receive and relocate potentially hundreds of Kierbeck builders bags throughout the life of a project.

Like builders bags, Safe Boxes are also tested to a 1 tonne safe working load, and certificates are similarly downloadable from the Kierbeck website. Safe Boxes are numbered and plated with safe working load information. They are required to be re-inspected every 6 months by a competent person and Kierbeck takes responsibility for re-inspection of Safe Boxes in its possession. However, once delivered to site, re-inspections become the customer's responsibility.

By comparison to other ancillaries which, may go out on a load, Safe Boxes are a relatively costly item. As such, their utilisation should only be by paid-for agreement between the customer and Kierbeck. If the customer returns them, subject to condition (assessed on return) Kierbeck will potentially issue the customer a full refund at the end of the project. However, where Kierbeck may have incurred costs (e.g. dedicated transport, repairs, potential re-testing), the value of the refund will be negotiated accordingly.



Reinforced health and safety
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