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Safe handling for flags

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Flags with textured surfaces such as shot blasted, riven or tactile surfaces can be successfully handled with the appropriate vacuum pad. All equipment should always be used and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.

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SAFE HANDLING ADVICE FOR KERBS AND FLAG PAVING

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 Citadel kerbs

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SAFE WORKING PRACTICE – LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

In 2010, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) targeted kerb-laying as a means of enforcing existing legislation namely the Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992. This is part of their ongoing supply chain initiatives to reduce the number of injuries caused by manual handling incidents within the construction industry.

One direct result of this initiative was that Interpave, the precast concrete kerb and paving slips trade association, produced detailed handling guidance for kerbs and flag products. This is designed to further enhance the safe handling, lifting and movement of flag and kerb products.

In addition to use with a standard concrete finish, vacuum pads are suitable for use with sandblast, pattern imprinted and granite finishes.

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Handling options for Trief and Kassel Kerbs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weight (kg)</th>
<th>Plan dimension (mm)</th>
<th>Mechanical grab</th>
<th>Vacuum lifter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trief GST2A</td>
<td>220-261</td>
<td>914 x 350</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Lengths</td>
<td>110-191</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radius Units</td>
<td>71-200</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quadrants</td>
<td>40-65</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taps</td>
<td>88-203</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trief GST2</td>
<td>180-210</td>
<td>914 x 380</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half units</td>
<td>82-108</td>
<td>650 x 80</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radius Units</td>
<td>85-117</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trief GST2 (Castell)</td>
<td>152-160</td>
<td>914 x 270</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half units</td>
<td>70-94</td>
<td>650 x 270</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radius Units</td>
<td>84-129</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quadrants</td>
<td>10-42</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taps</td>
<td>100-128</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kerbs and flags are heavy objects and will generally require specialist lifting equipment. You’ll need to consider safe lifting and handling options. This will depend on the size of your project and the availability of your site operatives.

In addition to using a standard concrete finish, vacuum pads are suitable for use with diamond pattern, expanded aggregate and granite finishes.

The above table shows lifting equipment that is typically suitable, in the majority of cases, for the products listed but it is the responsibility of the contractor to ensure that the optimum lifting and handling conditions and equipment are provided for all site operations.
SAFE WORKING PRACTICE – LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

In 2003, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) targeted kerb laying as a means of enforcing existing legislation namely the Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992. This part of their ongoing initiative to reduce risk and improve construction efficiency.

One direct result of this initiative was that Interpave, the precast concrete kerb and paving slab specialist, produced detailed handling guidance for kerb and flag products. This is designed to further enhance the safe handling, lifting and movement of flag and kerb products allied to sensible handling to ensure a safe working environment.

As a member of Interpave and a leading supplier of hard landscaping products, Brett believes that many potential site handling issues can be overcome by gaining our early involvement at the design stage. This allows us, the opportunity to design out on site cutting and unnecessary lifting by tailoring our product delivery to best suit your individual project and site conditions.

KERS

Brett design and kerb cutting service

Brett believes that the best approach to site cutting, including our Trief aftexx concrete kerbs, can be in many ways eliminate the need for the contractor to cut products on site thereby reducing risk and improving construction efficiency.

A key part of this service involves the Brett Technical Department analysing and identifying site layouts and providing advice on how to optimise standard components. Where necessary, we can produce customised components that are specifically manufactured or cut to suit project requirements.

A schedule summarising quantities and product types is supplied for each project and each is given a project number. These are then identified on the construction drawings to assist the contractor in the risk assessment.

As part of this service our Trief and Kassel Kerbs can also be coded for the advantage process on site. Accommodation decisions are required on site, where kerbs are adhered in place due to the reduced excavation depths.

The cutting of kerbs should be undertaken in accordance with the guidance published by Interpave. This guidance was developed as part of an HSE supply tool initiative and based upon a hierarchy of control.

Manual cutting

Minimal dust generation during cutting.

Handling Trief and Kassel Kerbs

The handling of all kerbs should always be in accordance with the Health and Safety Executive’s construction information sheet 17 ‘Handling kerbs: Reducing the risks of musculoskeletal disorders and back pain’.

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Mechanical grabs

Mechanical grabs are actuated either hydraulically or by relying on the mass of the kerb to activate the gripping bars by scissor action. This arrangement is used in conjunction with existing construction plant that is certified to lift heavy loads such as a backhoe or excavator

Manual lifting

Vacuum lifting

Vacuum lifting is the use of vacuum equipment to lift the kerb from a pallet without the need for prior repositioning. The vacuum lifting process makes the lifting task easier due to the reduced friction and handling processes having fewer risk.

Whereas re-positioning can be necessary when using a mechanical lifting device – to allow access for side clamps – it is a major advantage of vacuum lifting that in many cases it allows the operator to lift directly from the pallet without the need to reposition. The lower risk handling process makes the lifting task easier due to the reduced friction and handling processes having fewer risk.

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Selecting lifting equipment

When planning project it is essential to plan and assess the work required to gain the optimum risk management.

The process allows for selection of the appropriate equipment for handling of the relevant product at the design stage.

It is important to ensure that safe working load (SWL) of the lifting equipment is not exceeded and in the case of vacuum lifting all work equipment must be calibrated and maintained in accordance with the manufacturers instructions.

The Brett Design Support Service is always available by phone, email or via site visits and advice on the best lifting options for specific ranges and projects. Our early involvement will enable us to help design out lifting cuts.

Contact us on 0845 60 60 579 or by email at projectdesigner@brett.co.uk

Our Design Support Service can offer extensive installation advice, including tips on lifting equipment and on-site problem-solving, as well as design assistance in cutting kerbs and flags and providing installation advice, including hire of lifting equipment and product recommendations. A schedule summarising quantities and product types is supplied for each project and each is given a project number. These are then identified on the construction drawings to assist the contractor in the risk assessment.

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CONCRETE BLOCK PAVING

Brett manufacture an extensive range of concrete block paving products available in a variety of colours and styles to suit most applications, many are also suitable for slip-resistant installations.

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