

 Persimmon	Health, Safety & Environment Department	Issue Ref:	HS023
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Safety Alert		Revision:	1

Topic:	Drilling wood and wood-based materials
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Issued By:	B Gorman	Issue Date:	19.08.2024
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Distribution	X	Commercial		Finance	x	Administration/MD
		Technical		Sales		Land
	x	Construction	x	Customer Care	x	PLC – HS&E Advisors

Description

During a recent visit from the HSE, the inspector observed an Electrician drilling wood, using a flat type drill bit, whilst carrying out first fix. The Electrician was not wearing a FFP3 facemask, or the equivalent air fed full hood.

There was an excessive volume of wood shavings on the floor and an amount of course and fine wood dust.

The HSE has confirmed that when drilling wood, fine dust is released into the atmosphere than can be breathed in, this can sit in the lungs, which could lead to a number of respiratory/breathing diseases.

Furthermore, the settled dust may be disturbed and released back into the air, allowing for potential secondary exposure.



Action Required

- Any operative drilling any wood bases material must wear an FFP3 rated face mask, that has been Face Fit Tested to the Individual and be clean shaven or wear a full forced air hood/helmet with the equivalent respiratory protection
- Operatives must not allow the build-up of shavings or dust and should clean up at frequent intervals.
- Where possible use on tool extraction, attached to an H or M class extraction device to collect the dust and shavings. (The above face mask will still be required)