

Health, safety and hygiene /

Walling and ceilings are an essential part of most businesses' fixtures, and are subject to the same regulations which affect other parts of the business, in relation to the health and safety of employees, visiting non-employees and customers.

Handling and health risks

Under normal circumstances, handling PVCu walling poses few health risks. Normal care must be taken, however, when cutting to avoid inhaling dust. Adhesives used to install the products should be handled according to COSHH recommendations and Altro publishes guidelines for each adhesive type.

Food and general hygiene issues for walling, doors and ceilings

Good hygiene practice in handling and cooking food and drink is essential to the health of employees and others such as visitors, students and sub-contractors.

As with general health and safety issues, employers are required to assess all hazards and procedures which are critical to food and drink safety in their business, and to make plans to control them.

With regard to walling, doors and ceilings, it is essential that the premises are kept in good repair and condition and permit adequate cleaning and disinfection. Although not as critical as food contact surfaces, walling, doors and ceilings should be subjected to a regular and systematic cleaning schedule, especially in high risk areas such as cook/chill storage.

Cleanability and ease of disinfection of surfaces, and especially cleanability with reference to the degree of hygiene risk in an area, is an essential factor in the selection of walling, doors and ceiling materials.

Additionally, the materials must be compatible with hygiene and safety measures such as ventilation, and be able to resist daily usage so as to avoid becoming a hygiene hazard, e.g. cracking under impact.

Hygiene and Altro

Altro supplies walling, doors and ceiling materials to suit hygiene requirements of many application areas and is constantly reviewing product performance against the latest standards. Hygienic PVCu wall cladding, complete PVCu doorsets and suspended ceilings all assist in maintaining hygiene standards.

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