

SAFETY ALERT



AUSTRALIAN STEEL INSTITUTE
SAFETY GROUP

"Sharing incident learnings amongst ASI member companies"

"A vision of a safer steel industry"

Number:	SA0037
Subject:	Steel Storage and Dunnage Procedures
Date:	June 2010

Incident:

- Steel rafters had been stored on timber dunnage with the extended cleats and end plate preventing the beams from resting securely. Subsequently a rafter tipped forward onto the worker's ankle fracturing two bones and causing muscle and tendon damage.

Key Lessons:

- Steel products may not be secure on timber dunnage or racking creating the possibility of the steel section rolling over or falling.
- Dunnage size and position may not allow for the cleats welded to the steel section.
- Uneven ground needs to be assessed for suitability of racking or storage of steel sections including vehicle movements for the loading and unloading.

Recommendations:

- Racking needs to be suitable to store a variety of steel sections and configurations. This could include upright bars, rubber or timber to prevent slippage, movement or rollovers of steel sections.
- Compaction of work areas should be considered to create a hard surface suitable for vehicle movements to load and unload steel sections from the racks with suitable foundations for the racks.
- Develop and Implement procedures, training and induction processes for storage of steel sections to ensure safe dunnage usage and exclusion zones.



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