



ENVIROMESH

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Risk Assessment Associated with Gabion installations

The word gabion in this document refers to any steel wire mesh cage filled with stone or granular materials.

This document has been compiled to assist and make clients aware of some of the risks associated when handling wire and installing gabion products. The list is not exhaustive and should not be used as a substitute for undertaking a complete independent risk assessment prior to the installation of product on site.

Personal Safety

All machine operatives should have the required documentation and where necessary trained in the use of tools and equipment.

The installation contractor is required to ensure that all operatives have and use the correct protective safety wear.

**Protective Hard Hat
Protective Gloves
Fluorescent Jacket
Protective Eye Wear / Safety Glasses
Protective Footwear**

Handling and Installing Gabions

When handling wire or wire mesh, the cut ends can cause injury. Therefore, when handling wire used in assembly of gabions, protective eye wear and gloves must be worn.

- A** Where gabion units are modified on site by cutting the mesh fabric, the off cuts should be disposed of so that the installation area is free of these materials. Where off cuts are required for re-use, they should be stored tidily in a suitable area.
- B** Where mesh has been cut, any free ends should be trimmed or turned inwards so that they do not protrude outside the basket.
- C** Where helicals are used and installed, the last coil is to be turned through 90 degrees to lock the helical in place whilst also protecting people and animals from injuries that could be caused by the cut ends of the wire.

Filling of Gabions

- D** When machine placing fill within the unit, operatives should be clear of any overspill from the cells being filled. The gabion fill should be carefully placed by machine and not dumped from a height.
- E** When hand packing stone within the basket, care is to be taken so as not to have fingers crushed or trapped by adjacent rock pieces.

Working with Gabion Retaining Structures over 2m High

- F** Adequate staging or scaffolding must be installed for operatives to work off.
- G** Care should be taken in machine filling the units with rock to prevent overspill. If necessary, boards should be used to prevent the overspill.

Working Area

- H** To be maintained clear of debris
- I** Unsafe and unsupported excavations are to be shored and made safe accordingly prior to commencing work.
- J** Guard rails should be installed where safety is an issue on unprotected embankment edges.