

# Safety Toolbox Talk / Induction

**Topic:** Entering building spaces where RAAC is present

**Presenter:** **Date and Time of Presentation:**

**Legal Requirements:**

Discussion Point No'	Key Message to Deliver
1	<p><b><u>What is RAAC?</u></b></p> <p>RAAC is a reinforced form of lightweight concrete used to form panels or planks. It has no aggregate unlike common concrete. These were mainly used in flat roofs but also in some floor and wall panel construction in the UK from the mid-1950s to the mid-1990s. There is evidence that it has been used in a limited number of buildings through the 1990's and 2000's. RAAC was used in a range of building types, both public and private sector, but is believed to be more common in schools, hospitals and public buildings. It has been discovered in courts, theatres, sports halls, public toilets, and a range of non-domestic buildings. It's use in residential buildings is thought to be limited to roof top plant rooms, and some wall panels.</p>
2	<p><b><u>What are the risks associated with RAAC</u></b></p> <p>RAAC has proven to be not as durable as other concrete building materials. It generally has a lifespan of 30 years, although can last longer if the building is well maintained. There is a risk it can fail, particularly if it has been damaged by water ingress from leaking roofs which causes corrosion of the reinforcement, excessive thermal degradation, or if it was not formed correctly when originally made.</p> <p>Poor original installation, cutting the reinforcement bars on-site, can dramatically reduce the end bearing capacity of the planks. It can fail suddenly, hence the recent action by the UK Government. Later RAAC planks are known to use galvanised steel or stainless steel reinforcing bars, and are of less concern provided the roof is kept watertight.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">3</p>	<p><b><u>Entering a building space where RAAC is known to be present</u></b></p> <p>Before entering the building it is essential all staff, contractors and visitors follow the basic guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make sure anybody working in the space is aware of the RAAC.</li> <li>• Limit time in the space to only essential need and as little time as possible.</li> <li>• No lone working.</li> <li>• Inspect the roof before entry checking for visible signs of cracks / recent damage or decay.</li> <li>• Check for any material that may have fallen from the RAAC roof.</li> <li>• Visually check for dampness, roof leaks or water ingress.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p>	<p><b><u>What to do if you identify a potential risk from RAAC</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not enter the space</li> <li>• Immediately report to your line manager, building custodian or University of Warwick Community Safety Team</li> </ul>

Comments/Feedback:



