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Agrément Certificate 05/4275

Product Sheet 1

CELCON BLOCKS

CELCON STANDARD AND HIGH STRENGTH BLOCKS FOR FLOOR INFILL

This Agrément Certificate Product Sheet⁽¹⁾ relates to Celcon Standard and High Strength Blocks for Floor Infill, autoclaved aerated concrete (aircrete) blocks for use in beam and block floors in single-occupancy dwellings, domestic garages and other buildings where the floor is designed to meet the required loading.

(1) Hereinafter referred to as 'Certificate'.

CERTIFICATION INCLUDES:

- factors relating to compliance with Building Regulations where applicable
- factors relating to additional non-regulatory information where applicable
- independently verified technical specification
- assessment criteria and technical investigations
- design considerations
- installation guidance
- regular surveillance of production
- formal three-yearly review.



KEY FACTORS ASSESSED

Strength and Stability — an ultimate point load failure of 14.5 kN for a sand grouted floor was achieved in tests (see section 6).

Thermal insulation — the thermal conductivity (λ value) of the Standard⁽¹⁾ and High Strength⁽²⁾ blocks may be taken as 0.15 W·m⁻¹·K⁻¹ and 0.18 W·m⁻¹·K⁻¹ for protected blockwork applications, respectively (see section 7).

- (1) 0.13 W·m⁻¹·K⁻¹ ($\lambda_{10, dry}$), declared dry value.
- (2) 0.16 W·m⁻¹·K⁻¹ ($\lambda_{10, dry}$), declared dry value.

Condensation risk — condensation is unlikely to occur in a sand/cement finish applied over the products (see section 8).

Properties in relation to fire — the blocks have a reaction to fire rating of Class A1 in accordance with

BS EN 13501-1: 2007 and are non-combustible as defined in the national Building Regulations (see section 9).

Durability — the blocks have adequate durability (see section 13).

The BBA has awarded this Certificate to the company named above for the products described herein. These products have been assessed by the BBA as being fit for their intended use provided they are installed, used and maintained as set out in this Certificate.

On behalf of the British Board of Agrement

Date of Third issue: 13 September 2022

Originally certificated on 8 December 2006

Hardy Giesler Chief Executive Officer

 $The \, BBA \, is \, a \, UKAS \, accredited \, certification \, body-Number \, 113.$

The schedule of the current scope of accreditation for product certification is available in pdf format via the UKAS link on the BBA website at www.bbacerts.co.uk

Readers MUST check the validity and latest issue number of this Agrément Certificate by either referring to the BBA website or contacting the BBA directly.

Any photographs are for illustrative purposes only, do not constitute advice and should not be relied upon.

British Board of Agrément

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Regulations

In the opinion of the BBA, Celcon Standard and High Strength Blocks for Floor Infill, if installed, used and maintained in accordance with this Certificate, can satisfy or contribute to satisfying the relevant requirements of the following Building Regulations (the presence of a UK map indicates that the subject is related to the Building Regulations in the region or regions of the UK depicted):



The Building Regulations 2010 (England and Wales) (as amended)

Requirement:

A1 Loading

Comment: The products can contribute to a floor satisfying this Requirement. See section 6 of this

Certificate.

Requirement:

B3(1) Internal fire spread (structure)

Comment: The products are non-combustible and are unrestricted under this Requirement. See

section 9.1 of this Certificate.

Requirement: C2(c)

Comment:

C2(c) Resistance to moisture

The products can contribute to a floor satisfying this Requirement. See section 8 of this

Certificate.

Requirement: E2(b)
Comment:

2(b) Protection against sound within a dwelling-house etc

With a suitable finish, floors incorporating the products can satisfy this Requirement.

See section 10 of this Certificate.

Requirement:

L1(a)(i) Conservation of fuel and power

Comment: Floors incorporating the products can contribute to satisfying this Requirement. See

section 7 of this Certificate.

Regulation: 7(1) Materials and workmanship

Comment: The products are acceptable. See section 13 and the *Installation* part of this Certificate.

Regulation: 26 CO₂ emission rates for new buildings

Regulation: 26A Fabric energy efficiency rates for new dwellings (applicable to England only)

Regulation: 26A Primary energy consumption rates for new buildings (applicable to Wales only)

Regulation: 26B Fabric performance values for new dwellings (applicable to Wales only)

Comment: Floors incorporating the products can contribute to satisfying these Regulations. See

section 7 of this Certificate.



The Building (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (as amended)

Regulation: 8(1) Fitness and durability of materials and workmanship

Comment: The use of the products satisfies the requirements of this Regulation. See

section 13 and the ${\it Installation}$ part of this Certificate.

Regulation: 9 Building standards applicable to construction

Standard: 1.1(a)(b) Structure

Comment: The products will contribute to a floor satisfying this Standard. See section 6 of this

Certificate.

Standard: 2.3 Structural protection

Comment: The blocks are non-combustible and floors designed and constructed from them can

satisfy this Standard, with reference to clauses $2.3.1^{(1)(2)}$ to $2.3.3^{(1)(2)}$. See section 9.1 of

this Certificate.

Standard: Comment:	3.15	Condensation The products will contribute to a floor satisfying this Standard, with reference to clauses $3.15.1^{(1)}$ and $3.15.5^{(1)(2)}$. See section 8 of this Certificate.
Standard: Comment:	5.2	Noise reduction between rooms Floors incorporating the products can contribute to satisfying this Standard. See section 10 of this Certificate.
Standard: Standard: Comment:	6.1(b) 6.2	Carbon dioxide emissions Building insulation envelope Floors incorporating the products can contribute to satisfying these Standards, with reference to clauses $6.2.1^{(1)}$ to $6.2.3^{(1)}$. See section 7 of this Certificate.
Standard: Comment:	7.1(a)	Statement of sustainability The products can contribute to meeting the relevant requirements of Regulation 9, Standards 1 to 6, and therefore will contribute to a construction meeting a bronze level of sustainability as defined in this Standard. See section 7 of this Certificate.
Regulation: Comment:	12	Building standards applicable to conversions Comments made in relation to the products under Regulation 9, Standards 1 to 6, also apply to this Regulation, with reference to clause $0.12.1^{(1)(2)}$ and Schedule $6^{(1)(2)}$. See sections 6, 7 and 8 of this Certificate
952		(1) Technical Handbook (Domestic).(2) Technical Handbook (Non-Domestic).
: 4		

		(2) Technical Handbook (Non-Domestic).	
	The Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 (as amended)		
Regulation: Comment:	23(a)(i)(iii)(b)	Fitness of materials and workmanship The products are acceptable. See section 13 and the <i>Installation</i> part of this Certificate.	
Regulation: Comment:	29	Condensation The products can contribute to a floor satisfying this Regulation. See section 8 of this Certificate.	
Regulation: Comment:	30	Stability Floors constructed using the products will have sufficient strength and stiffness to transfer the floor loads to the supporting walls. See section 6 of this Certificate.	
Regulation: Comment:	35(1)	Internal fire spread – Structure The products are non-combustible and are unrestricted under this Regulation. See section 9.1 of this Certificate.	
Regulation: Regulation: Comment:	39(a)(i) 40(2)	Conservation measures Target carbon dioxide emissions rate Floors built with the products can contribute to satisfying the U value requirements. See section 7 of this Certificate.	
Regulation: Comment:	50(b)	Protection against sound within a dwelling or room for residential purposes Floors incorporating the products can contribute to satisfying this Standard. See section 10 of this Certificate.	

Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

Information in this Certificate may assist the client, designer (including Principal Designer) and contractor (including Principal Contractor) to address their obligations under these Regulations.

See sections: 1 Description (1.2) and 3 Delivery and site handling (3.1 and 3.3) of this Certificate.

Additional Information

NHBC Standards 2022

In the opinion of the BBA, Celcon Standard and High Strength Blocks for Floor Infill, if installed, used and maintained in accordance with this Certificate, can satisfy or contribute to satisfying the relevant requirements in relation to *NHBC Standards*, Chapter 5.2 *Suspended ground floors*.

Technical Specification

1 Description

- 1.1 Celcon Standard and High Strength Blocks for Floor Infill are produced from cement, lime, pulverized fuel ash (pfa) and coarse sand, with aluminium powder used as an aerating agent.
- 1.2 The blocks have the characteristics and sizes given in Table 1 and are available as:
- floor blocks infill block for use between beams
- coursing bricks for infill closing of beams at ends
- coursing slips for bedding on the wall and for closing edges of the floor.
- 1.3 Ancillary items for use with the systems and included in this assessment are:
- water vapour control layer may be necessary in areas of high humidity where additional insulation and particle board is used
- gas-proof barrier must be used in areas where there might be landfill gas or methane, and in areas where full radon precautions are required.

Table 1 Material characteristics					
Characteristic (units)	Standard	High Strength			
Face dimensions (mm)	440 x 215 x 100	440 x 215 x 100			
Gross dry density (kg·m ⁻³)	600 ± 50	730 ± 50			
Average unit compressive strength ($N \cdot mm^{-2}$)	3.6	7.3			
Minimum individual block compressive strength (N·mm $^{-2}$)	2.9	5.8			
Drying shrinkage (mm·m ⁻¹)	0.4	0.4			

2 Manufacture

2.1 The blocks are manufactured by mixing the raw materials into a slurry which is then discharged into moulds. The slurry rises and sets to form a cake which is then cut into blocks of the required dimensions using tensioned wires. Curing takes place in autoclaves under steam and pressure to increase the physical and chemical stability of the blocks before they are removed and packaged.

- 2.2 As part of the assessment and ongoing surveillance of product quality, the BBA has:
- agreed with the manufacturer the quality control procedures and product testing to be undertaken
- assessed and agreed the quality control operated over batches of incoming materials
- monitored the production process and verified that it is in accordance with the documented process
- evaluated the process for management of nonconformities
- checked that equipment has been properly tested and calibrated
- undertaken to carry out the above measures on a regular basis through a surveillance process, to verify that the specifications and quality control operated by the manufacturer are being maintained.
- 2.3 The management system of H + H Ltd has been assessed and registered as meeting the requirements of BS EN ISO 9001 : 2015 by BSI (Certificate FM 10059).

3 Delivery and site handling

- 3.1 The blocks are supplied banded or as shrink-wrapped standard packs, and may be off-loaded with mechanical grabs or fork lift trucks.
- 3.2 The blocks must be stored clear of the ground on a firm, level surface and must be protected from rain and water from the ground. If supplied, shrink-wrapping should be kept in place until the blocks are required for use.
- 3.3 Particular care should be taken when moving and installing the blocks on a floor under construction to mitigate the risk of operatives falling into the sub-floor void.

Assessment and Technical Investigations

The following is a summary of the assessment and technical investigations carried out on Celcon Standard and High Strength Blocks for Floor Infill.

Design Considerations

4 Use

Celcon Standard and High Strength Blocks for Floor Infill are suitable for use in the construction of beam and block floors in single-occupancy dwellings, domestic garages and other buildings where the floor is designed to meet the required loading (excluding separating floors). Where the floor is to be constructed above a basement, the underside should be provided with a suitable finish (see section 9.2).

5 Practicability of installation

The products are designed to be installed by a competent general builder, or a contractor, experienced with these types of products.

6 Concentrated loads



6.1 Load-spans for concrete beams should be determined in accordance with BS EN 1990 : 2002 and BS EN 1991-1-1 : 2002 and their UK National Annexes. The following partial factors should be included in these calculations:

- a partial factor for permanent actions of 1.35
- a partial factor for variable actions of 1.5.
- 6.2 Laboratory tests on grouted floor constructions consisting of 2.9 N·mm⁻² and 4.1 N·mm–2 (unit compressive strength) blocks and pre-stressed concrete floor beams showed that, when subjected to point loading, they achieved the ultimate loads detailed in Table 2.

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Table 2	Groutea	i Fioor Ca	nstructions

Block dimension (mm)	Block strength (N·mm−2)	Ultimate load failure (kN)
440 x 215 x 100	4.1	14.5
610 x 350 x 100	4.1	8.0
610 x 350 x 100	2.9	6.7 ⁽¹⁾

^{(1) 6.7} kN may be assumed as a conservative figure when considering 440 x 215 x 100mm, 2.9 N mm⁻² blocks.

7 Thermal insulation



For the purposes of calculating thermal transmittance (U values), the thermal conductivity of the Standard and High Strength blocks should be taken as $0.15 \text{ W} \cdot \text{m}^{-1} \cdot \text{K}^{-1}$ and $0.18 \text{ W} \cdot \text{m}^{-1} \cdot \text{K}^{-1}$, respectively.

8 Condensation risk



Ground floors should be constructed and designed in accordance with the relevant recommendations of BS 5250:2021. Thermal insulation placed above the floor can limit the risk of surface condensation. A vapour control layer placed between the insulation and the floor finish can reduce the risk of interstitial condensation. The underfloor void should be ventilated.

9 Properties in relation to fire



- 9.1 The blocks have a reaction to fire of Class A1 in accordance with BS EN 13501-1: 2007 and are classified as non-combustible as defined in the national Building Regulations.
- 9.2 When the blocks are used above a basement or at upper-floor levels, the ceiling finish must provide a reaction to fire capable of satisfying the requirements of the national Building Regulations.

10 Resistance to the passage of sound



Intermediate floors incorporating the products must incorporate suitable ceiling and floor finishes to limit airborne and impact sound transmission. Constructions achieving an Rw of at least 40 dB in England, and Wales and Northern Ireland and 43 dB in Scotland are acceptable.

11 Movement

The moisture movement of the blocks may be taken as a nominal value of 0.4 mm⋅m⁻¹.

12 Maintenance

As the products are confined within a floor space and have suitable durability (see section 13), maintenance is not required.

13 Durability



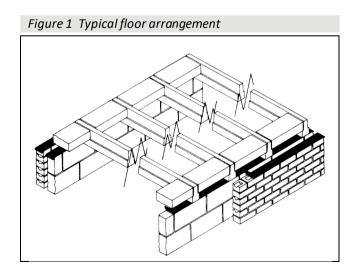
The exposure conditions beneath a suspended floor over a ventilated void and soil with no oversite concrete or other surface seal are classified as XC3 in accordance with BS EN 1992-1-1: 2004 (Table 4.1) and its UK National Annex. The products will have adequate durability for these exposure conditions.

14 Site preparation

- 14.1 The ground beneath the floor should be free from topsoil and vegetation. Oversite concrete or other surface seal is not normally required.
- 14.2 Damp-proofing and ventilation arrangements must be in accordance with normal good practice, for example, provision of damp-proof sleeves to ventilators and adequate drainage of the sub-floor (see also section 14.6).
- 14.3 A continuous damp-proof course must be laid along the support wall below the floor in accordance with BS 8215: 1991.
- 14.4 A void at least 150 mm deep must be provided between the underside of the floor and the ground surface. With good natural drainage or site drains provided to prevent water collection and standing, the ground beneath the floor does not need to be raised to external ground level but, where the levels differ, the ability of the perimeter walls to act as retaining walls must be checked.
- 14.5 In Scotland, it is considered to be good practice [and is an NHBC (Scotland) requirement] that the solum area beneath all suspended floors be brought up to at least the level of the adjoining ground, except where an arrangement of damp-proof membranes or damp-proof courses is installed to prevent the ingress of groundwater to the solum set at a lower level.
- 14.6 Opposing external walls must have ventilation openings placed to ensure that ventilating air will have a free path between opposite sides and to all parts of the floor void. The openings should be not less than either a 1500 mm 2 ·m $^{-1}$ run of external wall or 500 mm 2 ·m $^{-2}$ of floor areas, whichever gives the greater opening area.

15 Floor installation

- 15.1 When deciding on the suitability and specification of any beam to be used with the blocks, reference should be made to prestressed concrete beam flooring systems which carry current BBA Certification, and the Certificate holder should be consulted. Reference must also be made to BS EN 15037-1: 2008, BS EN 1992-1-1: 2004 and BS EN 1992-1-2: 2004 and their UK National Annexes.
- 15.2 The beam manufacturer's recommendations for placement and fixing must be followed.
- 15.3 The infill blocks are placed between the ends of the beam units, which are positioned to ensure correct spacing (see Figure 1). Where transmission of sound via a cavity is a consideration, infill blocks must be fully bedded and levelled, and vertical joints filled with mortar.



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- 15.4 Normally, a whole block is used to bear on the first beam and the outside wall of a bay (except when a beam is laid alongside the wall). The block is bedded on the wall with a normal mortar joint. The unit compressive strength of the block must be equal to or greater than the unit compressive strength of the blocks used to form the wall. The mortar must be to the same specification as the mortar used for construction of the wall.
- 15.5 The blocks must be provided with adequate bearing by clearing the joist flanges of debris and ensuring adjacent blocks are abutted as closely as possible.
- 15.6 The joints between the blocks and beams must not exceed 5 mm and must be grouted. The grout should be a mix of cement/sand with sufficient water added to produce a slurry of suitable consistency to suit the beam profile. The recommended application is by brushing or pouring into the joints.
- 15.7 Where the infill is of a non-standard block size (eg next to services), the void can be filled by cutting the blocks to fit. Cutting can be done using a masonry handsaw (specialist equipment is not required). The blocks must not be cut or drilled in such a way as to impair their structural performance.
- 15.8 Care must be taken to avoid overloading the floor during construction. Once it has been fully grouted, it should only be used for short-term materials storage and construction traffic. Planks should be laid across the joists and as close as possible to the floor bearings, before stacking materials.
- 15.9 The floor should be thoroughly examined prior to the application of the finish and any damaged blocks must be replaced.
- 15.10 Application of the screed should be strictly in accordance with the relevant recommendations of BS 8204-1: 2003.
- 15.11 In areas where there might be landfill gas or methane, and in areas where full radon precautions are required, a gas-proof barrier must be used. Full details are given in BRE guidance documents BRE Report 212: 1991 and BRE Report 211: 2015 Guidance can also be found in CIRIA 665: 2007.

16 Incorporation of services

- 16.1 Services must not be attached to beams or blocks in such a way as to impair their durability or strength.
- 16.2 Services must be protected from potential damage due to floor movement, eg by wrapping in flexible materials or by ducting. Consideration must be given to differential movements between the floor beams and other parts of the building and between adjacent beams, particularly where adjacent beams are of different spans.
- 16.3 Blocks must not be chased out to accommodate horizontal services. Horizontal services and conduit must be installed within the depth of the floor finish.
- 16.4 Vertical service pipes can be accommodated between infill blocks by reinstating the floor with in-situ concrete.

17 Concrete screeds

House floors

- 17.1 A minimum thickness of 50 mm⁽¹⁾ sand/cement (3:1) screed in accordance with BS 8204-1: 2003 is required.
- (1) A minimum 65 mm reinforced screed is required if used directly on top of insulation.
- 17.2 A 50 mm thickness sand/cement screed detailed for house floors can be laid directly on the grouted floor and, unless it is particularly moisture sensitive (as described in BS 8215: 1991), a damp-proof membrane is not necessary over the precast floor.

Domestic garages

17.3 The screed must be a minimum of 50 mm thick grade C20/25 concrete. Advice must be sought from the Certificate holder and the beam manufacturers with particular regard to beam spacing and the need for reinforcement.

Other floor deck toppings

17.4 Where floor deck toppings other than those detailed in sections 17.1 to 17.3 are to be considered, advice must be sought from the Certificate holder.

Technical Investigations

18 Tests

18.1 As part of the assessment leading to the original Certificate, tests were carried out and the results assessed to determine:

- dimensional accuracy
- drying shrinkage
- dry density
- compressive strength.

18.2 Small test units incorporating 2.9 N·mm⁻² and 4.1 N·mm⁻² blocks with appropriate sections of commercially available, prestressed concrete floor beams were grouted and subjected to point loading to destruction under surveillance by the BBA.

18.3 The results of tests on infill blocks subjected to static and impact loads were assessed.

18.4 Test reports relating to resistance to airborne sound transmission of completed intermediate floor constructions were evaluated.

19 Investigations

19.1 As part of the assessment leading to the reissue of this Certificate, the following measures were taken:

- a site visit was carried out to assess:
 - practicability of installation
 - resistance to site handling and site traffic
 - requirements for maintenance and repair
- an assessment was made of the risk of condensation
- a user survey was conducted to evaluate the performance in use.

19.2 The manufacturing process was evaluated, including the methods adopted for quality control, and details were obtained of the quality and composition of the materials used.

Bibliography

BRE Report 211: 2015 Radon: Guidance on protective measures for new dwellings

BRE Report 212: 1991 Construction of new buildings on gas contaminated land

BRE Report BR 262: 2002 Thermal insulation: avoiding risks

BS 8204-1 : 2003 + A1 : 2009 Screeds, bases and in situ floorings — Concrete bases and cementitious levelling screeds to receive floorings — Code of practice

BS 8215: 1991 Design and installation of damp-proof courses in masonry construction

BS EN 1990 : 2002 + A1 : 2015 Eurocode — Basis of structural design NA to BS EN 1990 : 2002 + A1 : 2015 Eurocode — Basis of structural design

BS EN 1991-1-1: 2002 General actions — Densities, self-weight, imposed loads for buildings

NA to BS EN 1991-1-1: 2002 UK National Annex to Eurocode 1 — Actions on structures — General actions — Densities, self-weight, imposed loads for buildings

BS EN 1992-1-1: 2004 + A1: 2014 Eurocode 2 — Design of concrete structures — General rules and rules for buildings NA + A2: 14 to BS EN 1992-1-1: 2004 + A1: 2014 Eurocode 2 — Design of concrete structures — General rules and rules for buildings

BS EN 1992-1-2: 2004 + A1: 2019 Eurocode 2 — Design of concrete structures — General rules — Structural fire design NA to BS EN 1992-1-2: 2004 Eurocode 2 — Design of concrete structures — General rules — Structural fire design

BS EN 13501-1: 2007 Fire classification of construction products and building elements — Classification using test data from reaction to fire tests

BS EN 15037-1: 2008 Precast concrete products – Beam-and-block floor systems

BS EN ISO 9001: 2015 Quality management systems — Requirements

CIRIA 665: 2007 Assessing risks posed by hazardous ground gases to building and the Ground Gas Handbook 2009.

TSO 2002 Limiting thermal bridging and air leakage: Robust construction details for dwellings and similar buildings

Conditions of Certification

20 Conditions

20.1 This Certificate:

- relates only to the product/system that is named and described on the front page
- is issued only to the company, firm, organisation or person named on the front page no other company, firm, organisation or person may hold or claim that this Certificate has been issued to them
- is valid only within the UK
- has to be read, considered and used as a whole document it may be misleading and will be incomplete to be selective
- is copyright of the BBA
- is subject to English Law.

20.2 Publications, documents, specifications, legislation, regulations, standards and the like referenced in this Certificate are those that were current and/or deemed relevant by the BBA at the date of issue or reissue of this Certificate.

20.3 This Certificate will remain valid for an unlimited period provided that the product/system and its manufacture and/or fabrication, including all related and relevant parts and processes thereof:

- are maintained at or above the levels which have been assessed and found to be satisfactory by the BBA
- continue to be checked as and when deemed appropriate by the BBA under arrangements that it will determine
- are reviewed by the BBA as and when it considers appropriate.

20.4 The BBA has used due skill, care and diligence in preparing this Certificate, but no warranty is provided.

20.5 In issuing this Certificate the BBA is not responsible and is excluded from any liability to any company, firm, organisation or person, for any matters arising directly or indirectly from:

- the presence or absence of any patent, intellectual property or similar rights subsisting in the product/system or any other product/system
- the right of the Certificate holder to manufacture, supply, install, maintain or market the product/system
- actual installations of the product/system, including their nature, design, methods, performance, workmanship and maintenance
- any works and constructions in which the product/system is installed, including their nature, design, methods, performance, workmanship and maintenance
- any loss or damage, including personal injury, howsoever caused by the product/system, including its manufacture, supply, installation, use, maintenance and removal
- any claims by the manufacturer relating to CEmarking.

20.6 Any information relating to the manufacture, supply, installation, use, maintenance and removal of this product/system which is contained or referred to in this Certificate is the minimum required to be met when the product/system is manufactured, supplied, installed, used, maintained and removed. It does not purport in any way to restate the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, or of any other statutory, common law or other duty which may exist at the date of issue or reissue of this Certificate; nor is conformity with such information to be taken as satisfying the requirements of the 1974 Act or of any statutory, common law or other duty of care.