

Connect Exhibitions Ltd – 2026
Method of Construction / Risk Assessment

Unloading the Wall Panels

- The wall panels are unloaded off a van/lorry by one or two workers. The panels are lightweight and can be lifted by one person. Careful manoeuvring of the panels may be needed within a building to reduce the risk of damage to property and panels.

Erecting the Wall Panels

- The wall panels are supplied ready-made and join together using a male/female bracket system. They are then bolted together at the top to secure the layout in place. Assembly is normally carried out by two people using hand tools and, where appropriate, battery-powered drills to fit the joining brackets and end blanks. A small step ladder is usually required to reach the top of the panels safely. The panels are configured into L- or T-shaped layouts, or supported with legs, to ensure they remain stable and upright.

Workers

- For wall panel set-up two workers are required to erect the wall panels successfully.

Tools

- As described above, the tools used will be hand-held tools, hand-held battery-powered drills and a small stepladder.

Conclusions of Activity

- This is a low-risk activity.

Fire Safety – Fireproofing of Exhibition Walling

- Connect Exhibitions panels are **manufactured from untreated plywood and are not supplied with a certified fire classification or fire resistance rating**. They **must not be used in escape corridors, stairways, designated escape routes, or other high-risk areas where a certified fire performance is required**.
- Connect Exhibition wall panels are manufactured from plywood and are therefore combustible. They are finished with standard water-based emulsion paint, which is not intended to provide fire protection or a certified reduction in flame spread.
- Over the years, Connect Exhibitions has researched the subject of fire safety in relation to exhibition walling and provides the following guidance on options that clients may wish to consider where enhanced fire performance is required (see below).

Examples of Fire-Retardant Surface Coatings

Emulsions that give a 0 rated fire-proof surface:

Products such as **Timonox Vinyl Matt Brilliant White** and **Bollom Flameguard Ultra Vinyl Matt Topcoat** are examples of water-based fire-retardant coatings intended to improve the fire performance of suitable substrates. Any claimed fire classification is dependent upon the complete coating system, the substrate and the manufacturer's specification.

Intumescent Paint:

Intumescent paints are specialist coatings that expand when exposed to heat, forming an insulating char layer. They are typically applied as part of a specified coating system and should be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and certification.

Fire-Retardant Sprays & Liquids.

A range of clear fire-retardant sprays and liquid treatments is available for use on absorbent materials such as timber, paper, card, textiles and some foams. Suitability, performance and certification vary between products and should be confirmed by the manufacturer before use.

Conclusions on Fire Protection

The application of fire-retardant products should be carefully considered, as their effectiveness depends on the specific product, method of application and any supporting certification provided by the manufacturer. Where a client requires an enhanced level of fire performance, a suitable fire-retardant treatment may be applied in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. However, such treatments may alter the appearance or finish of the panels, affect future repainting, and should be assessed by the client for suitability.

Please note: The information contained in this document is provided for general guidance only. It is based on information available at the time of writing and may not reflect changes to materials, products, legislation, standards or the specific requirements of individual projects.

Connect Exhibitions Ltd does not certify the fire performance of its exhibition wall panels and recommends that clients satisfy themselves that the products are suitable for their intended application and comply with any fire safety requirements applicable to their venue or project.

Where a certified level of fire performance is required, independent advice and appropriate product certification should be obtained.

Nothing in this document constitutes a fire safety assessment or certification of Connect Exhibitions products.