

**SAFEBUILDINGS MEMO ISSUED 05/09/2023**

**RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated concrete)**

The recent UK Government led focus on the safety and stability of **RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated concrete)** products, which are also commonly identified by the manufactured brand “**Siporex**” have resulted in many congregations becoming duly concerned about their church buildings.

Although It is highly unlikely that it was extensively used across church buildings there may be a cautionary concern for any newer churches built circa 1950s-90s, alterations, extensions and later additions of church buildings such as halls etc during these periods.

the **(RAAC) or “ Siporex”**, was generally laid as beam and block aerated concrete with steel rebar reinforcement often below flat roofed structures, that were later felted or covered with membranes , they were generally stable until the felt or membrane failed allowing water to ingress the aerated concrete, this aerated concrete traps the water, causing the concrete to degrade and further accelerates rust to the steel rebar which is the vital structural component within the aerated concrete , this has the potential to cause catastrophic failure of roofs and ceilings where it may have been applied.

it was heavily used in schools and other public buildings from 50's- 90's.

If you have any flat roofed structures that were laid using a **concrete block and beam type** finish or you suspect that **(RAAC) or “siporex”** may have been used during any construction, alteration or extension works please contact the General Trustees SafeBuildings team in the first instance at : [gentrustees@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:gentrustees@churchofscotland.org.uk)

I Have attached some further information from the institute of Structural Surveyors to assist with the understanding of the RAAC and visual identification of the material, **Please seal of any areas or buildings suspected to have this material fitted until it can be formally identified and the necessary remedial action taken.**