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**Material data sheet**

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- Botanical name:** 'AGAVE SISALANA'
- Commercial name:** **SISAL FIBRE** (Natural Fibre), cultivated in East Africa (Kenya / Tanzania), Madagascar and / or Brazil.
- Characteristics:** The sisal plant has a 7-10 year life-span and is usually cut first after 2-3 years and then at 6-12 month intervals. A typical plant will produce 200-250 commercially usable leaves in its life-time (hybrid varieties up to 400-450 leaves) and each leaf contains an average of around 1000 fibres. The fibre element, which accounts for only about 4% of the plant by weight, is extracted by a process known as decortication. Lengths of the fibre is from 60cm to 110cm.
- Use of Sisal:** For its high tensile and breaking strength it is traditionally used for production of agricultural twines and ropes. Apart from ropes, twines and general cordage sisal is used in both low-cost and speciality paper, dartboards, buffing cloth, filters, carpets and wire rope cores. In recent years sisal has been utilised as a strengthening agent to replace asbestos and fibreglass and is increasingly a component used in the automobile industry, where its strength, "naturalness" and environmentally friendly characteristics are greatly appreciated. The *Sisal Tow and carded Sisal in rolls* are used as building material for plastering purposes (gypsum works).
- Sisal Tow:** recuperated fibres from the brushing process
- Handling / storage:** Normal requirements. It must be protected from sea, rain and condensation water and also from high levels of relative humidity.
- Moisture contents:** max. 12% (at time of shipment)
- Packing:** in press-packed bales (100 to 250kgs)  
Carded Sisal in rolls of abt.10kgs
- Safety advice:** Non hazardous product.
- BTN number:** 5505000000 (Brussel's Tariff number)

All information in this data sheet is based on our present knowledge and is given as general information to describe our product.

WILHELM G. CLASE  
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