

PALLET RACKS

Safety Topic V6-0535

Materials Handling, Warehouse

Steel storage racks or pallet racks are used to hold goods stacked on pallets. The two most common causes of racking failures are

- racking that is not installed properly, and
 - damaged racking that is not reported or not repaired quickly.
- Every piece or component of pallet racking must be installed according to the manufacturer's requirements.
 - Column or post guards help prevent impacts and protect uprights from damage that could result in catastrophic failures.
 - Inspect racks regularly to discover any damage, wear, or problems. Report any damage found on racks and ensure that repairs are made quickly.
 - If necessary, unload racks, and then tag and mark or barricade them to remove them from service until repairs are completed.

OSHA Standard 1910.176(b) *Storage of material shall not create a hazard. Bags, containers, bundles, etc., stored in tiers shall be stacked, blocked, interlocked and limited in height so that they are stable and secure against sliding or collapse.*



- Items that hang over the edge of the shelf into the walkway can pose a struck-by or falling object hazard.
- Know the safe load capacity of the pallets being used.
- Use pallets that are the correct size. Pallets that are too small for the rack may become a hazard.
- Forks of the lift truck should enter the pallet straight and level to avoid damaging the pallet.
- Stack empty pallets flat, not leaning up on their sides.
- If you see a hazard either correct it or report it.

Discussion

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What is the current process for pallet racking inspections at your work location?

What safety measures should be followed when forklifts are used near pallet racks?