

# **PALLET RACKING INSPECTION PROGRAM**

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**Uchiyama MFG America LLC**



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## **Purpose**

Forklift accidents, collisions, dropped or misplaced loads, and other incidents that result in rack damage may or may not get promptly reported. Uchiyama MFG America LLC wants its employees to be able to work in a safe environment free of hazards. UMA continually strives to identify these concerns. Pallet Racking inspections are one of many inspections that are performed here at UMA.

## **Introduction**

Rack Safety is UMA's morale responsibility and comes with substantial legal liabilities.

Supervisors should also realize the potential hidden costs if a rack collapse:

- Replacing materials and damaged goods
- Use of temporary storage facilities
- General disruption
- Workers' compensation, general liability and other insurance rate hikes following legal expenses from defending actions resulting from an accident
- Potential fines relating to violations of safety requirements

When a rack gets struck by a forklift, one of the first priorities should be to identify any unsafe components in order to reduce the danger of collapse. One shall fill out a Forklift Incident form located in the Accident Investigation packets at the receptionist desk.

Storage racking for products on pallets should be designed specifically for the size, shape, and weight of the products being stored.

## **Inspections**

UMA's facility maintenance crew performs racking inspections every month. Also, the Safety Committee inspects racks when they perform their safety inspections in various departments. If the racks have damage or need repairs, they are immediately fixed. If the repair needed cannot be fixed immediately or poses harm, the rack will be tagged out of service.

*What to look for:*

- |                                  |                                         |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| ■ Are rack signs posted?         | ■ Are beams overloaded?                 |
| ■ Are uprights damaged?          | ■ Are beams damaged?                    |
| ■ Are splices in good condition? | ■ Has a beam popped out of its upright? |
| ■ Is the racking vertical?       | ■ Are welds damaged?                    |
| ■ Are racking braces damaged?    |                                         |

## **Safe Working Loads**

Do not exceed the safe working limit for the unit load or the safe working total load per bay for the racking. UMA racks have manufacturer load limit plates on the racks, or they have a yellow sticker stating the load capacity. It is the responsibility of the employee operating the forklift to know how much the rack holds and how much the pallet weighs. If they are not sure of these, ask the supervisor or the safety team to help you locate the information before loading the rack.

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## **Goods on Pallets**

The design of the pallet should take into account the nature of the goods in the unit load. An assessment of any change to the pallet design should be conducted by a competent person to prevent storage problems, such as:

- Using pallets larger than allowed for in double pallet racking, as they can overlap pallets behind them or push them off their supports
- Using pallets smaller than allowed for in the racking, as they can drop through the racking
- Using skid pallets in racking without timber decks, as they can drop through the racking

Boxes, cartons, barrels of oil and other such items stored on pallets should not overhang the pallet. Unit loads on upper levels containing boxes, cartons and other loose loads should be effectively prevented from falling by wrapping, strapping or by some other means.

## **Racking Concerns**

- Not enough space above to load
- Poor lighting
- No back connections
- Baseplate damage
- Upright damage
- Safety lock bent and broken
- Unbalanced Pallet
- Damaged Beam Connector
- Out of square upright
- Broken pallet
- Permanently bent or top damaged beam
- Excessive beam deflection

## **Training**

Maintenance personnel and the Safety Team are trained on what to inspect for. All other employees have general safety awareness around the plant and are to notify Safety or their Supervisor if they notice an unsafe condition.

## **Additional Information**

Any additional information/concerns about Pallet Racking Inspections can be answered by the EHS Manager.