

FACT SHEET 27

Pallets

Pallets are heavy, so when accidents occur they tend to be serious. Falling pallets have caused a number of fatal accidents but the risks posed by falling pallets are often not fully appreciated. Most accidents could be prevented by developing and following safe working practices.

There are numerous points for consideration regarding the use of pallets. Detailed information can be obtained from HSE Guidance note PM 15. In summary, the headline points that employers must consider are:

- Suitability
- Pallet design considerations
- Pallet loads
- Pallet environment
- Pallet movement
- Stacking loaded pallets
- Pallet
- Pallet
- Pallet management planning

Damaged pallets should be taken out of service as soon as the damage takes place or is seen. Where the pallet is laden there will need to be a system in place the goods to be safely transferred to a serviceable pallet.

Pallets should only be repaired by the pallet manufacturer, its agent or a specialist pallet repairer.

The information in this Fact Sheet has been assembled and interpreted to give truck owners and users basic guidance on frequently asked questions. Further important information will be given in the quoted reference documents. Responsibility for meeting the safety obligations discussed rests with the employer, and the FLTA will not accept liability for any problem arising as a result of the content of this document. Technical Bulletins, containing more detailed information and updated as appropriate, are made available free to members of the FLTA SAFE USER GROUP.

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