

HSEM ALERT

Pallet Racking Safety

Who needs to read this?

All Curtin University Staff

Incident Details

A staff member was removing a pallet from the top shelf of a racking system (5-6 meters high) with a forklift. He heard a loud noise and immediately exited the forklift truck as the front top beam of the racking system failed causing a pallet of boxes weighing approximately 630kgs to fall to the ground. No injuries were sustained.



Investigation Findings

- The racking system was not on a preventative maintenance plan and there was no evidence of regular inspections of the racking system.
- The permissible working unit load was not displayed on the racking. The required safety connector clips were missing on some of the racking beams.
- Multiple pallets had obvious signs of damage but were still in use.



Recommendations

All racking systems should be AS 4084 compliant.

All racking systems should be inspected at least once annually to confirm its integrity.

All racking inspections must be carried out by a competent person, fully experienced in the identification and categorisation of racking damage.

All areas should have a process for assessing racking systems for damage as per AS 4084. Damage to racking systems should be reported immediately to the Manager of the area.

Ensure that the working load limits are legibly displayed on each beam of the racking system. Working load limits should never be exceeded.

Bottom portions of frames exposed to possible collisions by forklifts or other moving equipment should be fitted with upright protectors and end-of-rack protectors.

Who do we call with questions?

If you have any queries, please contact Health, Safety and Emergency Management on 9266 4900 or email healthandsafety@curtin.edu.au.

References

AS 4084 Steel Storage Racking

SafeWork NSW – [Pallet Racking Fact Sheet](#)

WorkSafe Victoria – [Pallet racking operation and maintenance](#)

Australian Steel Institute (2015) [Code of Practice for Rack Safety Inspections](#)

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