

Technical Bulletin 005

Are You In Breach Of Your Local Standards And OH&S Laws?

When purchasing a rack protector, satisfy yourself that it will do the job. Ask for a copy of an independent test report. Without proof of performance, your only option is to assume that it does not comply.

Employers have a duty of care to provide and maintain plant and systems of work that are so far as reasonably practicable safe and without risk to health.

So it is the obligation of responsible managers to ensure that rack protection complies with local Standards and most importantly, Occupation Health and Safety Laws within your country.

The consequences of not doing so can be costly for both the company and the manager in charge.

So here are three simple rules.

Rule 1

Protect your the pallet racking from forklift impacts with a protection device that complies with a recognized Standard.

- If you do not have pallet rack guarding, you are most likely in breach of both your local Occupation Heath and Safety Laws, and the standards in your country. All pallet racking columns that are vulnerable to a forklift impact are required to be protected.
- If you do have pallet rack guarding, your equipment still may not comply and you could be in breach of both your local Occupation Heath and Safety Laws, and the standards in your country.

Rule 2

Regularly check the pallet racking for damage and keep records of inspections.

Rule 3

Maintain, repair or replace damaged pallet racking and safety equipment including rack protectors.

DOES YOUR RACKING COMPLY WITH THE STANDARDS?

The following excerpts summarize two typical impact tests for Australia and Europe. Standards may vary from country to country, so please check your local standards.

FEM 10.2.02 section 2.6 (Europe):

Impact damage caused by fork-lift trucks or other moving equipment against rack uprights shall be avoided by appropriate safety measures. The minimum requirements are as follows:

- An upright protector with a height of not less than 400mm should be positioned at the end of each upright.....
- The upright protector must be designed to absorb an energy of at least 400Nm in any vulnerable direction at any height between 100mm and 400mm
- The upright shall be positioned in a way that, after its deformation by absorbing an impact, the upright will not be damaged.



AS 4082 section 1.6.2 (Australia):

For resistance to minor impacts, the bottom portions of those frames which are exposed to possible impact or collision by forklift trucks or other moving equipment shall either-

- Include collision protection devices
- In addition, the racking shall be maintained so that all upright section, whose visible damage exceeds 3mm inward deflection and 5mm sideways deflection over a 1000mm length shall be immediately unloaded and the damaged section replaced.

Protection devices shall comply with the following:

- Extend from the floor level 300mm above the floor
- Resist a static horizontal force of 10kN(a minor impact) acting at a level 250mm above the floor without exceeding permissible stresses and without permanent deformation.
- The force should be applied perpendicular to the aisle, parallel to the aisle and at 45° to the aisle.
- Withstand structural damage to the upright

HOW WILL YOU KNOW THAT THE COLUMN GUARDS COMPLY WITH YOUR LOCAL STANDARDS AND OH&S LAWS?

- 1. SEEK EXPERT ADVICE**
- 2. ASK THE SUPPLIER OF YOUR PALLET RACK GUARDING TO PROVIDE PROOF of COMPLIANCE.**

Protect-it™ column guards have been tested for both front and side impact in accordance with the European racking standard, FEM 10.2.02 which is in our opinion, the toughest standard in the world. (test conducted on a Dexion 90R upright (1.6mm thick) and side impact test conducted on a Dexion 90M upright (1.9mm thick).

The test was supervised and reported by AMDEL, an independent Australian test laboratory. Test reports and videos of the tests can be downloaded from our website at www.protect-it.com.au

The **Protect-it™** range of column protectors suit most pallet racking column sizes and major brands sold throughout Australia, Asia Pacific, Europe, South Africa, South America, USA and Canada.

Protect-it™ column guards are sold in over 20 countries, used by major companies such as FORD, UPS, GM, Walmart, BP, IHS and have been proven performers over many years.

At the time of writing this bulletin, we are the ONLY manufacturer of column protectors in the world that make this important information freely available from our website.



We challenge you to find a smarter column guard anywhere in the world!

