

Checklist for Idle Pallet Storage

Idle combustible pallets can present a severe fire hazard requiring careful loss prevention and control measures. For fire protection purposes, NFPA 1, *Uniform Fire Code*, and NFPA 13, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems*, published by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), provide requirements to reduce the hazard of idle pallet storage. This checklist can be used as an auditing tool to assess this hazard.

	Yes	No	N/A
General			
Are pallets arranged in stable piles and in an orderly fashion?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are pallets with frayed edges removed from use and scrapped?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are pallets stored flat and not on edge?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are pallet storage areas separated from other storage areas and located away from structural supports and ventilation system intakes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outside Storage			
Are outside pallet storage locations protected from unauthorized access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are pallets located away from building openings, such as air intakes, windows, and doors?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are pallet piles separated from other outside storage by at least:			
• 20 ft (6 m) for piles of less than 50 pallets?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• 30 ft (9 m) for piles of 50 - 200 pallets?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• 50 ft (15 m) for piles of greater than 200 pallets?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are pallet piles separated from buildings, having masonry walls and no openings, by clear spaces, as follows:			
• 10 ft (3.1 m) separation ¹ for piles of 200 or less pallets?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• 15 ft (4.6 m) separation for piles of 200 or more pallets?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are pallet piles separated from buildings with wood frame or similarly constructed walls (i.e., iron-clad metal) by at least :			
• 20 ft (6.1 m) for piles of 50 or less pallets?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

¹ NFPA 1 does not provide a minimum separation for this exposure; however, most fire protection professionals recommend this as a minimum separation.



	Yes	No	N/A
• 30 ft (9.1 m) for piles of 51 to 200 pallets?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• 50 ft (15.2 m) for piles greater than 200 pallets?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inside Storage – Wood Pallets			
Is indoor storage of idle wood pallets, protected by one of the following:			
• Control mode density/area sprinkler protection as specified in Table 12.12.1.2(a) of NFPA13 which limits storage to 20 ft (6.1 m) in height.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Control Mode Specific Application (CMSA) Sprinkler protection in accordance with Table 12.12.1.2(b) of NFPA 13, which limits storage to 20 ft (6.1 m) in height.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Early Suppression Fast-Response (ESFR) Sprinkler protection in accordance with Table 12.12.1.2(c) of NFPA 13, which limits storage for a pendent head orientation to 35 ft (10.7 m) in height and 20 ft (6.1 m) for upright head orientation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• In accordance with the OH2 density curve of Figure 13.2.1 of NFPA 13, Miscellaneous Storage 12 ft (3.7 m) or Less in Height – Design Curves, for pallets that are stored no higher than 6 ft (1.8 m), in height, with stacks (of four pallets groups) separated by at least 8 ft (1.4 m) and having a clear space of 25 ft (7.6 m).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indoor Storage - Plastic Pallets			
Is the indoor storage of idle plastic pallets limited to floor storage not exceeding 10 ft (3 m) in height and protected by an automatic sprinkler system with a density of at least 0.6gpm/ft ² (24.5 mm/min) over 2,000 ft ² (186 m ²) and a K factor of at least 16.8?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are plastic pallets that are stored up to 12 ft (3.7 m) high in cutoff rooms protected by three-hour fire-rated walls, and a sprinkler system with a density of at least 0.6 gpm/ft ² (24.5 mm/min) or an ESFR system with a K factor of 14?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are all steel columns in cutoff rooms in which plastic pallets are stored up to 12 ft (3.7 m) high protected by a one-hour fire-rated covering or protected by a sidewall sprinkler?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the storage of plastic pallets outside of cut-off rooms limited to 4 ft (1.2 m) in height and stacks (of two pallet groups) separated by at least 8 ft (1.4 m) and protected by sprinklers with a high temperature rating?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the in-rack storage of plastic pallets protected by an ESFR sprinkler system meeting the design requirements of Table 12.12.2.2.3 of NFPA 13?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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