



To some, the HSE guidelines and HSE racking inspection regulations might seem complex, but they are logical and easy to understand when you are armed with a bit of knowledge.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is the branch of the British government that is responsible for all things to do with health and safety. As such, HSE guidelines are often seen as very important. This is not just the case for racking safety; it's the case for workplace safety in general. So, what are HSE guidelines? Here's a brief summary...

HSE Guidelines & HSE Guidance Documents

HSE guidelines come in the form of HSE guidance documents. These are best practice documents which offer pragmatic — rather than legal — advice on matters of occupational safety. A common misconception is that HSE guidelines and HSE guidance documents are the law. However, they are not, and this short paragraph at the start of every HSE guidance document makes this clear:

*"This guidance is issued by the Health and Safety Executive. Following the guidance is not compulsory and you are free to take other action. **But if you do follow the guidance, you will normally be doing enough to comply with the law.**"*

A full version of this same caveat can be found on the HSE website.

However, following the guidelines is normally “enough to comply with the law”. What’s more, because the advice is from the British government, it’s advice which is as objective and trustworthy as you can get in occupational safety.

HSE guidelines are also a good introduction to occupational safety legislation within a particular industry. When HSE refers to the law or to legal guidance, this is made explicit.

HSG76: The HSE Guidance Document for Racking Safety

Every booklet of HSE guidelines is labelled HSG followed by a number. As of January 2018, there are 103 HSGs numbered from HSG17: Safety in the use of abrasive wheels to HSG279: Making paper safely.

The list of HSGs is being constantly updated as HSE seeks to improve the standards of its guidelines. As such, there are some gaps between numbers. For example, there is an HSG173 and an HSG175, but there is no HSG174.

Since 2007, the HSG most relevant to guidance with regards to HSE racking regulations has been HSG76. Its full title is HSG76 Warehouse and storage: A guide to health and safety.

So, what does HSG76 have to say about warehouses? What are the HSE guidelines for racking safety? Well, here’s a brief look at their general thoughts on the topic.

When it comes to warehouse safety no detail should be overlooked. Proper warehouse racking safety isn’t just about meeting regulations. It’s about ensuring a secure and productive work environment for everyone involved, that is what we are all about at Ribble Valley Training Centre. We are passionate about empowering warehouse managers and staff with the knowledge and skills they need to navigate warehouse operations safely and efficiently.

The Importance of Warehouse Racking Safety

Warehouse racking systems form the backbone of the logistics industry. These steel giants, such as warehouse pallet racking, rise high to accommodate an ever-increasing demand for goods. As a result, they’re often laden with weight and bustling with activity – a recipe for disaster if not carefully monitored and

maintained. In fact, the HSE reported that in 2021/22, there were **16 fatal injuries in the transport and storage sector**, alongside a whopping **31,000 non-fatal injuries**.

Accidents involving warehouse racking can be catastrophic, leading not only to potential injuries but also significant financial losses due to damaged stock and operational downtime.

Consider the worst-case scenario, in which a member of staff is fatally injured in the warehouse, and the incident also included massive stock losses and equipment damage (for example, a forklift driver knocks over racking). This type of accident will cause tens of thousands of pounds of losses to the organisation, in addition to the irreplaceable loss of life – which will inevitably also have an immeasurable impact on general productivity and reputation.

If the warehouse management or safety is found to be responsible for the accident (due to lack of training or insufficient safety procedures and maintenance, for example). Then there will also be hefty regulatory fines and possibly legal bills to contend with. **Along with JAIL sentences.**

The good news? Most of these accidents are preventable with the proper safety guidelines in place and regular warehouse racking inspections. Understanding the potential risks is the first step towards creating a safer warehouse environment.

Common Risks Associated with Warehouse Racking Systems

Warehouse racking systems come with their own unique set of hazards. Knowing what these are can help you establish more robust safety procedures:

- **Improper Load Distribution:** An unevenly distributed load can destabilise the racking system, leading to a potential collapse.
- **Exceeding Load Capacity:** Overloading racking beyond its designed capacity puts undue stress on the structure, significantly increasing the risk of failure.
- **Damage from Handling Equipment:** Forklifts and other heavy machinery can cause structural damage to the racking during loading and unloading.
- **Inadequate Training:** Without proper training, employees may not understand the safe operation of equipment or how to properly load and unload items, resulting in unnecessary risk.

Racking bolted to the floor and cross members pinned / bolted to the upright pillars

Safety Guidelines for Warehouse Racking Systems

Ensuring warehouse safety isn't a one-time affair – it is an ongoing commitment that involves continuous assessment, training, and adherence to safety protocols. Here are a few key safety guidelines:

Regular Inspections

Schedule frequent warehouse racking inspections. On page 115 of the HSE document called HSG76, it is stated as follows. 'A technically competent person should carry out inspections at intervals of not more than 12 months.'

View the HSG76 document on this

link: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/hsg76.pdf>

Proper Training

Make sure all warehouse staff receive thorough training on warehouse safety guidelines, including the safe use of equipment and best practices for loading and unloading racking systems.

Clear Markings

Ensure all racking systems are clearly marked with their maximum load capacity. This information should be prominently displayed and easy for all staff to understand.

Correct Use of Equipment

Ensure that all warehouse machinery and equipment are used correctly, adhering to safety procedures at all times.

Proper Maintenance

Regularly maintain your racking systems and replace damaged components as soon as they are identified.

Safety Equipment

Consider implementing additional safety equipment, such as anti-collapse mesh screens or upright protectors, to further enhance safety.

We also understand that taking action on warehouse safety isn't just about compliance. It's about creating a work environment that values the well-being of its workers. It's about showing your employees, stakeholders, and customers that you're committed to operating responsibly and safely.

Remember, the costs of not investing in warehouse safety can be far greater than the costs of implementing a robust safety program – so don't wait for an accident to happen get ahead of the curve and make safety a priority today.

The Need To Train

<https://ribblevalleytrainingcentre.com/need-to-train/>



Need To Train
Stay Out Of
JAIL

<https://ribblevalleytrainingcentre.com/>





End Frame Protector



THIS RACKING IS SUITABLE FOR A UNIFORMLY DISTRIBUTED LOAD OF 2000kg PER LEVEL, PROVIDED THAT:

- 1) THERE IS MORE THAN ONE BAY PER RUN
- 2) THERE IS MORE THAN ONE LEVEL OF BEAMS PER BAY
- 3) THERE ARE NO MORE THAN 4 LEVELS OF BEAMS PER BAY
- 4) THE PITCH OF BEAM LEVELS IS NO GREATER THAN 2000mm
- 5) THE RUN LENGTH IS GREATER THAN THE RACK HEIGHT

ANY CONFIGURATION OUTSIDE OF THESE PARAMETERS WILL REQUIRE A SITE SPECIFIC LOAD NOTICE. PLEASE CONTACT RAPID RACKING

RapidRacking

Tel: 01285 68 68 68 • e-mail: design@rapidracking.com
Keston Enterprise Park Coventry, Glos GL7 6BQ

Caution: please do not exceed the design load.
• Do not apply loads not intended for this racking.
• Do not apply loads not intended for this racking.

IF IN DOUBT ALWAYS CONTACT THE SUPPLIER

REPORT ALL DAMAGE TO SITE MANAGEMENT

REPORT ALL ACCIDENTS
 DO NOT CLIMB ON RACKING

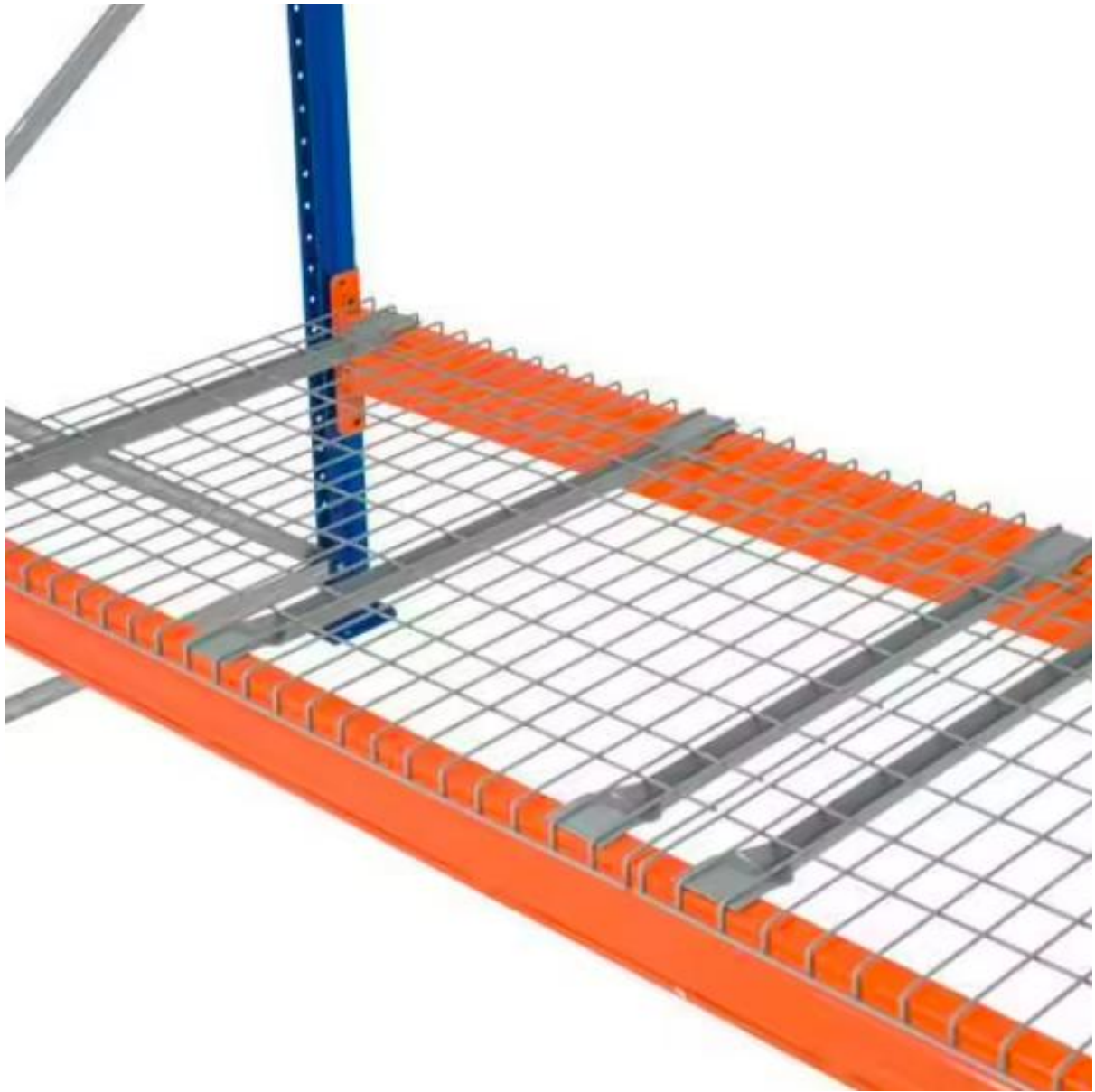
Do not alter the structure without approval.
1. Drawing office approval
2. Structural calculations
3. Drawing approval from supplier

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Galvanised panel kit for pallet racking

