



SPRINKER SYSTEM UPGRADE MAY BE REQUIRED BASED ON PALLET TYPE

The pallets you use may affect your insurance rating and the design of your sprinkler system. The National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) is reviewing the fire risk associated with non-fire retarded plastic pallets and composite wood pallets.

Unfortunately, due to changes in the pallet industry, thousands of facilities across the nation now contain pallets that are in violation of the initial design consideration which will cause a fire to overwhelm the level of sprinkler protection present. Businesses using these types of pallets may be required to spend thousands of dollars upgrading sprinkler systems or pay higher insurance rates.

Most experts agree the task will be difficult but worth the effort to ensure workplace safety. Costs associated with proposed code change will be significant. One solution is to review which pallets will be affected by the proposed change and consider moving to a product that has no penalty associated with its use. The draft Code Application Bulletin from the National Association of State Fire Marshals shows that there is neither a penalty associated nor a UL Listing required for aluminum pallets.

Pallet Type	Markings	Penalty
Plastic		2 Commodity Class and Idle Penalty
Plastic	Unreinforced	1 Commodity Class and Idle Penalty
Wood / Manufactured Wood Mix		2 Commodity Class and Idle Penalty
Wood / Plastic Mix		2 Commodity Class and Idle Penalty
Unknown / Mix		2 Commodity Class and Idle Penalty
Plastic	UL 2335 Listed	None
Any Construction	UL 2335 Listed	None
100% Wood using Metal Fasteners		None
100% Aluminum / Steel		None

source: Draft Code Application Bulletin "Pallet Fire Loading Impact on Sprinkler Design"

LM Containers offers a full line of aluminum pallets that are fireproof, lightweight, durable and 100% recyclable. Aluminum pallets are perfect for indoor or outdoor storage. They support heavy loads and withstand excessive forklift use. Aluminum resists wood-borne pests, extreme temperatures and harsh cleaning chemicals. Leasing and guarantee buy-back plans are available.

If your business is looking for ways to lower insurance costs and ensure workplace safety, call 573-359-2286 for more information on fireproof aluminum pallets and containers.

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<http://mhmonline.com/viewstory.asp?nid=6906&iid=21007&pnum=1>

<http://www.firemarshals.org/programs/code-enforcement-training-and-support/>