

8.2.9. Checking Pallets Prior to Use

Standard

Is there a system of checking pallets prior to use to ensure they are in a clean and good physical condition and do not damage packaged products?

Purpose

To ensure pallets are assessed for suitability prior to loading finished products.

Reason

Bagged, and some bulka bagged, products are loaded onto pallets for transportation. The condition of the pallets may compromise the quality of the final product.

What is Acceptable?

A checklist at point of loading or upon packaging and labelling/pallet stacking step may be used to assess if pallets are suitable for use. Points to consider may include, but not limited to:

1. Cleanliness: Are pallets free of any visible dirt, dust, or residues?
2. Contamination: are there any signs of leaks from previous products or chemicals?
3. Integrity: Are there any broken boards or missing nails that can cause damage to bagged products?
4. Pest and Mould Presence: Is there any evidence of insect or pest infestation? Are there any signs of mould from water damage that could compromise integrity?
5. Suitability for Load: Are there any weight capacity regulations?
6. Compliance: CHEP or wooden (mill owned) pallets?

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