

FEM Racking and Shelving Product Group



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Clarifications regarding the publication and use of EN 15512:2020	

General

The European Materials Handling Federation, Racking and Shelving Product Group (FEM R&S) considers EN15512:2020 to be the state of the art for racking design and recommends that EN15512:2020 is used for the design of all new racking structures.

The EN15512:2020 Code was published by CEN in November 2020 and is considered effective from that date.

According to CEN rules, the time limit for National Standardization Bodies to withdraw the existing Code, and other conflicting EN Standards, and replace with the revised Code is within 6 months from the published date (the Date of Withdrawal – DOW). However, in this case, NEN obtained a 6 months delay to harmonize the Dutch A-deviation and the new withdrawal time for EN15512:2009 has been extended until November 2021. This is automatically extended to all European CEN National Standardization Bodies.

It should be noted that EN15512, as well as the other Codes issued by CEN TC/344, are not Harmonized Standards, and the use of these Codes is not Mandatory unless there is a National legislation requirement.

In consideration of the situation of the EN 15512 standard described above, FEM R&S issues the following recommendations regarding the management of existing racks designed with EN15512:2009 and EN16681. This is necessary as EN15512:2020 introduced some significant changes in the calculation methods and safety factors.

Replacement of damaged components in existing racks

The replacement of damaged components of existing racks, designed according to EN15512:2009 can be carried out using the same components to those installed, again designed according to EN15512:2009.

It is, however, possible to replace installed components with ones designed according to EN15512:2020 provided that the rack in question is also re-checked to EN15512:2020.

Modifications and extension of existing racks

1. Where a rack has been designed to EN15512:2009 and the modification comprises:

- Reconfiguration of the number or heights of beam levels.
- Adding or removing bays to the run of a rack, using existing or new components.

The designer may check the new configuration to either EN15512:2020 or EN15512:2009 unless National legislation requires the check to be in accordance with EN15512:2020.

2. Where a rack has not been designed to EN15512:2009 and the modification comprises:

- Reconfiguration of the number or heights of beam levels.
- Adding or removing bays to the run of a rack, using existing or new components.
- Relocating a rack not designed to EN 15512:2009 and EN 16681 inside the same building or in another building, even if usage and site conditions are the same.

The modification and the extension of existing racks should be designed according to EN15512:2020.

The consequence may be a change in the capacity of the racking and modifying the load notices may be necessary.

Seismic design according to EN 16681:2016

The EN16681 Code includes dated references to EN15512:2009; therefore, for the seismic design of pallet racks, that edition of the Code has to be used for the relevant clauses in EN16681 applicable to the dated reference.

The recommendations and advice contained in this Information Bulletin are based on information that has been collected by FEM R&S from its members. They represent what is, as far as FEM R&S is aware, the best available data at the time of publication. The suitability of this Guidance Note must be determined by the judgement of the person applying it in accordance with the conditions in which use is envisaged and subject to all relevant statutory requirements. FEM R&S accepts no responsibility for the recommendations; advice, statements and conclusions expressed or implied and give no warranty, representation or assurance with respect to the accuracy or validity of the same.

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