

## PALLET LOAD TESTING TO EN ISO 8611

PalletLink carry out pallet testing to the current Standard most popular in Europe which is BS ISO 8611: 1991 *General - purpose flat pallets for through transit of goods - Test methods*. This has been the focal point of pallet testing for many years for all materials and remains the best analytical tool for users or manufacturers to know exactly how pallets perform. The acceptance levels are set by ISO TR 10233: 1989 *General purpose flat pallets for through transit of goods - Performance requirements*. The new 2009 version of ISO 8611 is still not finalised but is more flexible and involves lower test loadings, we can test to either but generally recommend the newer version.



PalletLink load testing of pallets and components comprises hydraulic compression and bending testing up to loads of several tons. Separate tests on pallet components, nails, joints and wood density support basic reporting. No charge is made for facilities used when using in-house equipment, simply our time. We use external facilities for larger tests and we use UKAS calibration laboratories to maintain equipment accuracy standards on deflection and load. The example in the top photo here is from our tests to BS EN 12674-3: 2004: *Roll containers - Part 3 - Test Methods* where a horizontal deflection transducer is shown and a pair of matched 1000 kg load measurement transducers acting in tandem.



To most clients the most informative pallet test is the deck bending test which is shown in the centre photo applied to a plastic pallet where the hydraulic loading heads are just out of the picture above the load board. Our maximum size capacity for pallet tests is 1300 x 1300 mm. The lower photo shows a compression test on a single plastic block with distortion and exact load measured simultaneously.



After testing of wood or composite pallets we conduct small specimen oven-dried density tests to BS 373 to be able to accurately define the wood moisture content and quality used in the specimen. For paper and steel pallets other supporting tests are carried out. We normally do more than the basic pallet test calls for in order to assist clients achieve a given level or improve quality. Test results are strictly confidential to clients.

For potato box and roll container testing see the relevant pages on this website.

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