

UN SUBSTANCE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

Also known as UN SIN or UN Number or UN ID, these numbers are sometimes confusing for the packaging industry. They are in fact for hazardous chemicals and not for wood or plastic pallets or cases. However, the goods carried on a pallet may create the hazard and the pallet unit-load may then be classed as a hazard. The object is that in a fire or spillage people know what they are dealing with and how to deal with it.

The four-digit United Nations Substance Identification Number (UN SIN) is an international standard number which identifies the substance concerned. It is found on the substance packing product label HAZCHEM or the ADDRESS panel.

North American numbers

NA numbers (North American numbers), also known as DOT numbers are issued by the United States Department of Transportation and are identical to UN numbers, *except that* some substances without a UN number may have an NA number. These additional NA numbers use the range NA8000 to NA9999.

Certain hazardous chemicals may also require special treatment of the pallet. Flame retardant wood pallets (sometimes incorrectly called fire proofed) are needed in special hazard situations, but if a pallet buyer does requires flame retardancy, this is given by an intumescent treatment. (See our Datasheet 98a)

Some hazardous chemical producers routinely require flame retardancy; an example is when manufacturing and shipping hydrogen peroxide which is liable to spontaneous combustion when exposed to air and fuel together (eg. spillage on timber). This spontaneous ignition can occur without the presence of a source of ignition, making the hazards associated with leaking hydrogen peroxide drums a particular concern.

To identify what a substance is from a UN Number, use the *internet chemical database site*. The USA University of Akron database is useful and will identify a substance if you search 'UN xxxx'. For Example - HazMat 1017 will retrieve the following information -

CHLORINE Haz toxic gas + corrosive EAC:2XE APP: A(c)

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