

# TERMS

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## Glossary of Industry Terms

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**annular nail** - pallet nail with annular (circular ring) threads rolled onto the shank

**banding notch** - see strap slot

**bin** - four-sided superstructure to be mounted on a pallet base, with or without a cover; also known as a box or container bin pallet

**block** - rectangular, square or cylindrical deck spacer, often identified by its location within the pallet as corner block, end block, edge block, inner block, center or middle block

**block pallet** - a type of pallet with blocks between the pallet decks or beneath the top deck

**bottom deck** - assembly of deck boards comprising the lower, load bearing surface of the pallet

**butted deck board** - an inner deck board placed tightly against an adjacent lead deck board during pallet assembly

**CAD** - computer-aided-design software that allows the design of the "right" pallet at the best value; see Pallet Design System (PDS)

**captive pallet** - a pallet intended for use within the confines of a single facility, system or ownership; not intended to be exchanged

**chamfered deck boards** - deck boards with edges of one or two faces beveled, either along the full or specified length of board or between the stringers or blocks, allowing easier entry of pallet jack wheels

**closed distribution system** - shipping system restricted to moving goods

**collar** - collapsible wooden container or bin which transforms a pallet into a box

**combo pallet** - pallet manufactured from reclaimed lumber generated by stripping spent pallets

**cost pass-through** - a cost-share system where the partial cost of a pallet is passed-through from the purchaser to the receiver of the pallet

**cost-per-trip** - average cost of pallet use for a single one-way trip

**deck** - one or more boards or panels comprising the top or bottom surface of the pallet

**deck mat** - assembly of deck boards & stringer boards, forming the deck of a block pallet

**deck board** - element or component of a pallet deck, oriented perpendicular to the stringer or stringer board

**deck board spacing** - distance between adjacent deck boards

**deck board span** - distance between deck board supports (stringers, stringer boards or blocks)

**deflection** - the amount of deformation or bending in a pallet or pallet component under load

**dimensions** - see pallet dimensions

**double-face pallet** - a pallet with top and bottom deck boards extending beyond the edges of the stringer or stringer boards

**double-wing pallets** - a pallet with top and bottom deckboards or decks extending beyond the edges of the stringers or stringerboards

**drive screw nail** - helically (continuous spiral) threaded pallet nail

**economic life** - output from PDS program which identifies the number of trips the pallet will make, provided it is properly repaired, which maximizes a return on investment

**exchange pallet** - a pallet intended for use among a designated group of shippers and receivers where ownership of the pallet is transferred with the ownership of the unit load; common pool pallet

**expendable pallet** - a pallet intended for a series of handlings during a single trip from shipper to receiver; it is then disposed of; see shipping pallet

**fastener** - a mechanical device for joining pallet components such as nails, staples, bolts or screws

**fastener shear index** - relative measure of shear resistance of the pallet fastener

**flush pallet** - a pallet with deck boards flush with the stringers, stringer boards or blocks along the sides of the pallet

**fork entry** - opening between decks, beneath the top deck or beneath the stringer notch to admit forks

**four-way block pallet** - a pallet with openings at both pallet ends and along pallet sides sufficient to admit hand-pallet jacks; full four-way entry pallet

**free span** - the distance between supports in a warehouse rack

**grocery pallet** - a generic reference to the pallets used in the grocery manufacturing, distribution and retailing; historically, it meant a "GMA pallet" which was a pallet originally specified by the Grocery Manufacturer's Association. The original designs are available from the NWPCA

**hand (wheel) jack opening** - space provided in the bottom deck to allow pallet jack wheels to bear on the floor

**handling** - a single pick-up, movement and wet-down of a loaded or empty pallet

**hardened-steel nail** - heat-treated and tempered steel pallet nail with a MIBANT angle between 8 and 28 degrees

**hardwood** - wood from broad-leaved species of trees (not necessarily hard or dense)

**helical nail** - helically (continuous spiral) threaded nail, see also drive screw nail

**inner deck board** - any deck board located between the end deck boards

**joint** - intersection and connection of components, often identified by location within the pallet as the end joint, center joint and corner joint

**length** - refers to the stringer or stringer board (in block pallets) length; also refers to the first dimension given to describe a pallet, i.e., 48" x 40", where 48" is the pallet stringer/stringer board length

**life to first repair** - output from PDS program which is equivalent to number of trips pallet will last before needing repair

**limited-use pallet** - a pallet designed for an average of up to nine trips, with an average of five handlings per trip in an average environment; single trip pallet; one-trip pallet; one-way pallet; expendable pallet; shipping pallet

**line load** - the weight of a unit load concentrated along a narrow area across the full length or width of the pallet

**load bearing surface** - actual area of material in contact with and supporting a unit load

**MIBANT angle** - the bend angle in a fastener shank when subjected to a MIBANT test

**Mibant test (Morgan Impact Bend Angle Nail Tester)** - standard impact nail tester used in the pallet and lumber industry as an indication of impact bend resistance of nails or staples

**multiple-use pallets** - a pallet designed for more than one unit load with an average minimum life-to-first repair of ten trips or more, with an average of five handling environment; multiple-trip pallet; returnable pallet; reusable pallet; warehouse pallet; permanent pallet; general-purpose pallet; special-service pallet; through-transit pallet.

**National Wooden Pallet and Container Association** - a national association with the goal of promoting the design, manufacturer, distribution, recycling and sale of pallets, containers and reels

**non-reversible pallet** - a pallet with bottom deck board configuration different from top deck

**notch** - cutout in lower portion of the stringer to allow entry for the fork tine, usually 9" in length, 1-1/2" in depth

**notched stringer** - a stringer with two notches spaced for fork-tine entry, (partial four-way entry)

**opening height** - the vertical distance measured between decks, from the floor to the underside of the top deck, or from the floor to the top of the stringer notch

**overall height** - the vertical distance measured from the floor to the top side of the top deck

**overhang** - the distance the deck extends from the outer edge of the stringer or stringer board; wing; lip; distance the unit load extends beyond the deck

**pallet** - a portable, horizontal, rigid platform used as a base for assembling, storing, stacking, handling and transporting goods as a unit load, often equipped with a superstructure

**Pallet Design System (PDS)** - reliability-based computer-aided design (CAD) program, for determining the safe program, for determining the safe load carrying capacity, performance, life and economy of wooden pallets

**pallet size** - when specifying pallet size, the stringer or stringer board (block pallet) length is always expressed first; for example, a 48" x 40" pallet has a 48" stringer or stringer board and 40" deck boards

**pallet jack** - hand-propelled, wheeled platform, equipped with a lifting device for moving palletized unit loads

**pallet life** - the period during which the pallet remains useful, expressed in units of time or in the number of one-way trips

**panel deck pallet** - pallet constructed with composite or structural panel top deck

**partial four-way stringer pallet** - a pallet with notched stringers

**post pallet** - a pallet fitted with posts or blocks between the deck or beneath the top deck; see block pallet

**quality** - consistent performance of a uniform product meeting the customer's needs for economy and function, normally represented in terms of conformance to predetermined agreed standards

**racked across deck boards (RAS)** - output of the PDS evaluation software describing the maximum load-carrying capacity and deflection of a wood pallet and its decks, where the warehouse racking frame supports the pallet only at the deck board ends.

**racked across stringers (RAS)** - output of the PDS evaluation software describing the maximum load-carrying capacity and deflection of a wood pallet and its decks, where the warehouse racking frame supports the pallet only at the stringer ends.

**repaired pallet** - pallet with damaged components replaced with new or recycled components, in order to reuse it.

**recycled pallet** - a pallet that has been used, discarded, salvaged, repaired or rebuilt in order to pass through another cycle or cycles of use...environmental responsibility.

**rental pallet** - a pallet owned by other than the user and rented by the user.

**shook** - cut-to-size lumber pallet components, such as deck boards, stringers, stringer-boards, or blocks, to be assembled into pallets.

**single-wing pallet** - a pallet with the top deck boards or deck extending beyond the outer edge of the stringers or stringer boards and with the bottom deck boards or deck, if any, flush with the outer edges of the stringers or stringer boards

**slave pallet** - rigid pallet or platform; single, thick panel used as a support base for a palletized load in warehouse rack-storage facilities or production systems

**softwood** - wood from coniferous or needle-bearing species of trees (not-necessarily soft in texture or of low density).

**solid deck pallet** - a pallet constructed of a single or multiple components without space between the deck boards or components.

**span** - the distance between supports.

**spent pallet** - a pallet that has been used beyond repair.

**stevedore pallet** - a pallet designed for use on seaport shipping docks; normally a large pallet of heavy-duty, double-wing construction.

**strap slot** - recess or cutout in the upper edge of the stringer or the top or bottom pallet deck, designed to allow tie-down of a unit load to the pallet deck with strapping or banding; strap notch; banding notch.

**strapping** - thin flat bands used to secure the unit load to the pallet

**stringer** - continuous longitudinal, solid or notched beam-component of the pallet used to support and space the deck components, often identified by location as the outside, interior or center stringer; bearer; runner

**stringerboard** - in block pallets, the continuous, solid board member extending for the full length of the pallet, perpendicular to the deck boards and blocks, to serve as support of deck boards or deck.

**trip** - a series of four to six handlings of a pallet, required to move a palletized unit load from the shipping point to the receiving point.

**two-way entry pallet** - a pallet with unnotched solid stringers allowing entry only from the two opposite pallet ends; a pallet without notches in the stringers.

**uniform standard for wood pallets** - a comprehensive standard for the manufacture and repair of wood pallets that's available through NWPCA; also outlines "best practices"

**unit load** - the assembly of goods or a single item on a pallet for handling, moving, storing and stacking as a single entity; it includes the supporting pallet.

**wing** - overhang of deck board or deck end from the outside edge of the stringer or stringer board, to increase unit-load area, to add pallet load-bearing capacity, to reduce deck-board-end splitting by fasteners, and to facilitate the lifting of a pallet with bar slings hanging from a crane.