



Newsletter

May 2014

PYRAMID PICKING – GOOD OR BAD?



PYRAMID:

goods are offloaded from front edge first working down creating a “stepped” pile.

This type of stack is seen most often when walking around pick areas/ warehouses (*I would advocate the layer by layer method whenever possible*)

It works well for the picker AT FIRST because the load is close to them and initially the load is at a good height to handle. However, eventually the loads at the rear of the pallet have to be decanted. This would involve *either* standing on the pallet (remember your training and why we **don't** want this) *or* creating a weight arm and lifting the load over the emptied pallet/ crate space placing excessive pressure on shoulders, back and, possibly, the knees.

Depending on the type of load palletized this method can also make the goods remaining on the stack unstable as you take the supporting packages away with the associated possible consequences for anyone in the area should the stack fall.



LAYER BY LAYER:

goods removed from one complete layer before moving down to the next.

This method means the picker must slide the loads at the back of the stack to the front when required prior to lifting enabling the load to be lifted from close to the body (reducing weight arm to a minimum) BUT it can also place additional stress on the shoulders, back and, possibly, the knee when moving heavy and/ or large loads or loads that do not slide over the layer below easily; but could you look at getting these delivered with “slide sheets”/ cardboard between layers to reduce friction?

So which should method should we use?

The method used will be decided by the goods to be handled, the racking system employed or the space around the pallet/ crate and, ultimately by YOU your MANAGER your HEALTH AND SAFETY DEPT and ANY ONE ELSE affected by the decision and an evaluation of each situation should be sought.

But there are other possible solutions to help you reach a decision.

A few examples to consider

- If the pyramid method is the only one possible (for example if goods in a crate are cylindrical and stacked on top/ inside each other in a rack and/ or with no space around it) then pick from the front edge to the middle, always ensuring stability of remaining goods, then **reorientation** of the pallet/ crate should become the norm. I.E. turn it around so the goods are near the picker.
- If layer by layer utilized but it is felt the furthest goods cause too much of an over reach; consider using a fit for purpose “hook” or reach and grab bar to help pull the load closer.
- Create space around palletized/ crated loads for pickers to be able to access all sides (I know – easier said than done).

I'll have to leave it there as I'm running out of space for the £20.00 voucher competition; again this newsletter is a reminder of past training and a prompt to keep you working at improving your manual handling lot.

*Last newsletter comp won by Will Hardy of Moy Park Ltd – correct answer; Safe Operating **PRACTICE***

£20.00 M&S voucher competition

TRUE OR FALSE – Get Set Training advocate the layer by layer method whenever possible.

Doesn't get much easier; E-mail your answer to mail@getsettraining.co.uk by Friday 6th June. One person with the correct answer will receive £20.00 in Marks and Spencer vouchers.