



# HAVE YOUR RACKING INSPECTED BY A SEMA APPROVED RACK INSPECTOR

[www.sema.org.uk](http://www.sema.org.uk)

An initiative of SEMA





## When it comes to your storage equipment, safe practices never stop.

Keeping your racking in good working order is essential for creating a safe environment, meeting your legal obligations and your business running efficiently. The maintenance of your storage system should never be taken for granted. After all, your racking may appear as a simple steel frame but in reality, it is providing the crucial job of potentially holding tonnes of material safely above the heads of your employees. Suddenly, the need to ensure it is working correctly becomes ever more important.

It is inevitable that your racking systems will be subjected daily to knocks, bumps, wear and tear and adopting an appropriate maintenance regime is key.

There are three main reasons for an inspection:

- To comply with your legal requirements
- Verify it has been installed correctly
- Check the condition of your equipment and identify repair work

### Know your responsibilities

Did you know that your storage equipment is classed as work equipment? Under PUWER and the Health and Safety at Work Act regulations, it is your responsibility to ensure they are in good working order, maintained and inspected correctly.

If the HSE comes calling and you are found to be in breach of the Health and Safety at Work Act then the consequences could be severe including custodial sentences. That doesn't even start to consider the impact if an employee gets seriously hurt.

### Responsibilities include:

- Ensuring Load Notices are correct and clearly visible
- Instigating a reporting system to monitor accidents and damage
- Conducting internal damage surveys
- Making sure that appropriate pallet types are used at all times
- Appropriate training for operatives of materials handling equipment
- Equipment inspected by a technically competent person on a regular basis





## How often should you inspect?

Racking is covered by HSE guideline HSG76 Warehousing and Storage: A Guide to Health and Safety. It is not a legal requirement to follow this best practice document but adhering to the advice given is normally enough to comply with legislation. SEMA and HSG76 guidance recommends implementing a tiered system:

### 1. Immediate inspection

Employees need to be 'safety aware' when it comes to your racking and it is a good idea to invest in training for all members of staff within the warehouse. They are often in the best position to notice if racking has been damaged and they should be encouraged to immediately report any problems. After all, even the slightest damage can pose a high safety risk.

### 2. Regular inspection

A nominated and trained member of staff should perform regular inspections of your equipment to check and report on any missing or damaged components and that load notice guidance is being followed.

### 3. Expert Inspections

To meet your legal requirements under PUWER, your racking, on a bi-annual or annual basis, should be inspected by a 'competent person'. The frequency of this inspection will be dependent on a number of factors including the type of operation and storage equipment in use.

## What is a SARI?

To provide a clear benchmark for the industry, SEMA operates a nationwide network of SEMA Approved Racking Inspectors (SARIs).

SARI inspectors are qualified professionals whose day job is to complete the SEMA circle of quality by undertaking racking and storage system expert inspections at end-users' premises. They conduct racking and storage condition inspections, reports and recommendations, so that all places of employment can operate as safe environments.

### Quality Assurance

End users are assured that a SARI has been trained and assessed in a number of areas and disciplines which achieves competency in practical and cognitive skill sets. The role of the SARI demands sound observational skills, a robust understanding of storage equipment and industry standards and a keen eye for detail.

To maintain their qualification, each inspector must commit to a programme of Continuous Professional Development.



*"A programme of rack awareness training is run regularly by SEMA to address the issue of visual inspection and a more formal course is run to qualify expert inspectors under the SARI (SEMA Approved Rack Inspector) scheme"*

**HSG76 Warehousing and storage:  
A guide to health and safety**

## What is a SARI Inspection?

It is worth noting that there are two very different types of inspection available. A damage only inspection provides a list of damaged items and their location. Whereas the SARI inspection goes much further to include suitability and compatibility of the equipment, rack configuration type and manufacturer and a general identification of components. It will also check that the Load Notice specifically applies to the rack that it's fixed to, often a problem if racking is moved or altered.

The SARI report will classify any damage using a traffic light system to indicate actions required and over what timescale:

- Red risk areas identify a high level of damage and racking should be immediately offloaded and put out of use.
- An Amber risk indicates where damage is sufficiently severe to warrant remedial work but does not require immediate offloading. Once the pallet positions in this area are emptied, they should not be refilled until the repairs are carried out. If repairs are not affected in four weeks, then an Amber risk item automatically becomes a Red risk item.
- Green areas are those where damage falls within SEMA limits but is recorded for further consideration at the next inspection. Green does not mean the damage is acceptable and should not be ignored.

If your racking system has been supplied by a SEMA Member Company they may also have approved SARI Inspectors who can provide the full service. For a list of SARI Inspectors across the UK visit [www.sema.org.uk/members/sema-approved-inspectors](http://www.sema.org.uk/members/sema-approved-inspectors).

### **Benefits of using a SEMA Approved Rack Inspector**

- Inspector is trained and assessed to industry standards
- Competent third party inspector of your equipment
- On-going commitment to CPD
- Independent report
- Identification of red, amber and green risks
- Safety recommendations
- Value for money





## Get Ahead with Training

Training is central to achieving safe and best practice within the workplace. SEMA offer the following courses for the inspection of racking:

### **Rack Safety Awareness Course**

This course is aimed at warehouse managers and operatives and explains your responsibilities as a user, how to conduct internal inspections and how to monitor and record rack damage. It also illustrates the different types of inspections available, the necessary frequency of inspections and the training shows you how to maintain your racking in a safe working order.

### **SEMA Approved Rack Inspector Qualification**

If you are a rack inspector or your duties include the conducting of third party inspections, you may wish to apply for the prestigious SEMA Approved Rack Inspector Qualification.

Applicants should ideally be qualified to HNC/HND level in an engineering related subject and have two to three years related experience. Applicants with higher level qualifications and/or extensive experience related to the industry will be considered on their individual merits although each application will undergo an initial review in order to assess the applicant's suitability.

SEMA's Approved Inspector qualification comprises an intensive three-day training course and the successful completion of both a written examination and practical assessment. Continuous Professional Development (CPD) is also an integral part of the SEMA Approved Rack Inspector programme which substantiates the qualification and demonstrates a commitment to both the user and the industry in line with SEMA's policies of quality and professionalism.

There are currently two separate modules relating to the SEMA Approved Rack Inspector Qualification.

1. Adjustable Pallet Racking
2. Cantilever Racking

Each inspector is awarded with a certificate for each successfully completed module of the SEMA Approved Inspector Qualification. In addition, an ID Card is issued annually and is dependent on the Inspector's commitment to the Continuous Professional Development programme to maintain their qualification.



## Check the credentials of your Inspector!

- 01 Ask to see an in-date SARI ID card
- 02 Contact the SEMA offices
- 03 Visit the new SEMA website and search for your inspector

For more information on SARI or to find how you can become an Inspector contact the SEMA office by emailing [enquiry@sema.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@sema.org.uk) or visit [www.sema.org.uk](http://www.sema.org.uk)



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