



WHO ARE THE STORAGE EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION?

www.sema.org.uk



Safety over the lifetime of your racking

Setting up a warehouse can be a challenging task. To run profitably you need a storage solution that makes full use of your space, is designed for the type, weight and handling of your products and ensures efficient throughput of stock. On top of this, your storage equipment must also be safe and meet industry requirements.

Fortunately, serious incidents concerning racking equipment are rare but when they do happen, the consequences can be severe. The last thing your business needs is an HSE investigation discovering you have failed in due diligence! Company Directors can face an investigation that damages their reputation, hefty fines or, in the worst case scenarios, a prison sentence. That's without mentioning the cost to lives affected in an accident.

Meeting industry regulations

For your company to stay within its legal requirements you and any storage equipment supplier must work to the following industry regulations.

- CDM 2015 regulations - most storage equipment installations are seen as construction projects. As the client, you are required to check the credentials of your supplier and ensure they are 'the right people for the right job'.
- HSG76 (Warehousing and Storage: A Guide to Health and Safety) – this guidance from the HSE covers racking systems. Adhering to the advice is normally enough to comply with legal requirements.
- PUWER (Provisions and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998) - once in place, your storage equipment is classed as work equipment. It is your responsibility to assess and maintain your racking.

Buyer Beware

There are many factors which help create a safe racking environment. Each stage of your storage equipment is intrinsically linked. You cannot deliver on one element without keeping safety central throughout the lifetime of your system.

Yet, the storage equipment industry is mostly unregulated. Finding a racking company that can prove they are working to the highest standards can be difficult.



Proven Quality

This is where SEMA can help!

As the Storage Equipment Manufacturers' Association (SEMA) we are a leading voice within the warehouse industry. In these days of 'buyer beware', end users can rest assured that SEMA is stepping up to the plate.

SEMA is made up of industry leading experts and companies who want to raise quality and safety standards within the industry. Our work covers the lifetime of your equipment. Starting with industry leading guidance developed by our Technical Committee through to the design, manufacture and supply of your system. Together with training, installation and inspection initiatives our guidance provides a framework for safe storage systems.

We don't just believe that our members are the best, we also want to prove it. That's why we independently assess the products and services of our members. This provides you with assurances their storage equipment delivers on current quality, safety and reliability standards for the industry.

Safety in Design

When designing your storage equipment, Codes are used to ensure that the racking will work correctly with the other equipment and fulfil the desired requirements. The work of our Technical Committee is formalised into a set of Codes and guidelines that are not just for technicians and engineers but also relevant to anyone with a safety management role.

Design Codes are specialist, but the purpose is simple, to make sure we have a reasonable level of confidence that the rack will meet its intended purpose. Within the UK, quality assurance of your racking system comes when it has been designed to either the SEMA Code or the European Code EN 15512. The SEMA Design Code has a long history of providing racking that meets standards of safety and helps warehouse owners and managers meet their obligations within PUWER.





Safety in Manufacture

Of course, getting the design correct goes hand in hand with choosing the suitable storage equipment manufactured to the highest standards. When you purchase a storage system from one of our manufacturing members, you know you are buying some of the best in the market.

Their products are tested independently to meet our recognised Quality Assurance System and guarantees a structural engineer has designed the product to SEMA or EN Codes.

Safety in Supply

Delivering a safe and high-quality installation that meets the long-term requirements of your warehouse cannot be left to chance. Anyone who supplies and installs equipment by our manufacturing members must prove their credentials.

To gain their membership, SEMA members are independently assessed. The process ensures they are working towards the highest safety and quality standards, industry regulations, Codes of Practice, and legislative requirements. Today, we are the only scheme in the UK that independently audits the credentials of distributors and installers of storage equipment.

Safety in Installation - Is your installer qualified?

Never underestimate the level of technical knowledge required for the task. If performed incorrectly, it can affect the structural integrity of the new equipment, reducing safety standards and potentially resulting in unnecessary and expensive remedial costs.

HSG76 states that 'racking should only be installed by competent people in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.' How do you know if your installer is appropriately

qualified and working safely? Experience does not necessarily guarantee safety.

In response to the problem, SEMA established SEIRS. Supported by the HSE, this national registration scheme rigorously trains installers on correct installation methods to meet SEMA standards. As a CSCS Partner Card Scheme, it is a recognised route to a Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) card. An installer who holds one of our SEIRS cards can demonstrate they work to the highest industry standards.

Maintaining Racking Safety

Safe practices never stop. Your racking will inevitably be subject to knocks, bumps, wear and tear. Adopting an appropriate inspection and maintenance regime is key to keeping your structure safe.

Implementing a safety culture and appointing a person responsible for regular inspections is crucial. Training is essential and will ensure your employees understand how to work within the parameters of the equipment and loading requirements.

The process comes full circle with an annual 'expert' inspection by a SEMA Approved Rack Inspector (SARI). Their report will provide clear guidance on the condition of your equipment and uses a traffic light system to indicate actions required and recommended timescales for corrective action.

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. HSG76 guidance recommends implementing a tiered system and references SEMA's Rack Safety Awareness training for employees and our more formal SARI training course for inspectors who undertake expert inspections.



Safety Through Training

At SEMA, we can deliver a range of training courses that support you over the lifetime of your racking. Our dedicated training centre in Burntwood offer facilities for both classroom learning and the ability to build racking in a practical learning environment.

Our training courses continue to be approved by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA). We have also been awarded ISO 9001:2015 certification for the support we provide to our members and the development and delivery of our industry related training courses.

Our courses:

Rack Safety Awareness Course -

Covers the requirements for in-house rack inspections and the safe operation of a racking system, explanations on load notices, and examples of damage categorisation and prevention.

SEIRS Training –

Our SEIRS training courses are for installers of racking. We offer five courses which build into a solid foundation of industry specific issues to cover Health & Safety training, practical hands-on instruction on installing storage equipment and a rigorous assessment process. Courses include SEIRS Foundation Level – Part 1, Diploma Level – Part 2, Refresher, Supervisors and Installation Managers.

SARI Training -

Our SARI course is a professional qualification for personnel whose responsibilities include the expert inspection of storage equipment. The SARI qualification comprises an intensive three-day training course which includes written examination and practical assessment. SARI's must also commit to a programme of on-going Continued Professional Development.



For more information on
SEMA or to find how you can
become a member

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