



ONTARIO FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE PROTECTION STANDARD

Outdoor Pallet Yard Standard

STANDARD #F-009 EFFECTIVE 01-01-2024 PAGES 3

PURPOSE:

To establish outdoor pallet yard standards for the City of Ontario.

SCOPE:

This standard applies to all outdoor storage of pallets, and outdoor storage of pallets at pallet manufacturing and recycling facilities within the City of Ontario.

AUTHORITY:

The 2019 California Fire Code (CFC) Sections 105.5.31, 315.7, 503, and 2810. The CFC establishes minimum requirements consistent with nationally recognized good practices to safeguard the public health, safety, and general welfare from the hazards of fire.

REQUIREMENT:

1. An annual operational permit for **Miscellaneous Combustible Storage** is required to store combustible pallets on any premises exceeding 2,500 cubic feet gross volume. (CFC 105.5.31)
2. Where buildings are equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system, the outdoor storage of pallets under eaves, canopies or other projections or overhangs are prohibited except where automatic sprinklers are installed under such eaves, canopies or other projections or overhangs. (CFC 315.7.1)
3. Pallet storage shall not be located within 10 feet of a lot line. (CFC 315.7.2)
4. Pallet storage shall not exceed 20 feet in height. (CFC 315.7.3)
5. Pallet stacks shall be arranged to form stable piles. Individual pallet piles shall cover an area not greater than 400 square feet. (CFC 315.7.4)

6. Pallets shall be all wood, with slatted or solid top or bottom, with metal fasteners, or shall be plastic or composite pallets, listed and labeled in accordance with UL 2335 or FM 4996. Plastic pallets shall be both solid and gridded deck, independent of the pallet manufacturing process, type of resin used in fabrication or geometry of the pallet. (CFC 315.7.5)
7. Pallet stacks and piles shall be separated from buildings in accordance with Table 315.7.6(1) for wood pallets and Table 315.7.6(2) for plastic pallets. Wood pallet distance ranges from 2 feet to 90 feet. Plastic pallet distance ranges from 2 feet to 150 feet. See table(s) in the California Fire Code for exact distance. (CFC 315.7.6.1)
8. Pallets shall be separated from other pallet piles and other storage in accordance with Table 315.7.6(3) for wood pallets and Table 315.7.6(4) for plastic pallets. Wood pallet distance ranges from 7.5 feet to 45 feet. Plastic pallet distance ranges from 15 feet to 75 feet. See table(s) in the California Fire Code for exact distance. (CFC 315.7.6.2)
9. Pallets shall not be stored underneath high-voltage transmission lines, elevated roadways, or elevated railways. (CFC 315.7.7)
10. Properties with a depth that exceeds 150 feet, must comply with Ontario Fire Department Standard #B-004 Fire Apparatus Access Roads (Fire Lanes).

In addition to the above, the following applies to the storage of wood pallets and wood composite pallets on the same site as a pallet manufacturing or pallet recycling facility:

11. Each site shall maintain a current site plan. The site plan shall be submitted to the fire code official for approval and contain the following (CFC 2810.2):
 - a. Lot lines.
 - b. Utilities.
 - c. Size, location, and type of construction of the buildings on the property.
 - d. Presence of the fire protection systems.
 - e. Water supply sources for fire-fighting purposes.
 - f. Location of hazardous material storage areas.
 - g. Location of pallet storage.
 - h. Equipment protected with a dust collection system.
 - i. Fire apparatus access roads.
 - j. Designated smoking areas.
 - k. Location of fire alarm control panels.
12. The owner or owner's authorized representative shall submit a fire prevention plan for review and approval by the fire code official that includes the following (CFC 2810.3):

- a. Frequency of walk-through inspections to verify compliance with the plan.
 - b. Hot works permit program in accordance with CFC Chapter 35.
 - c. Preventative maintenance program for equipment associated with pallet activities.
 - d. Inspection, testing and maintenance of fire protection systems in accordance with CFC Chapter 9.
13. The owner or owner's authorized representative shall prepare and train employees in an approved fire safety and evacuation plan in accordance with CFC Chapter 4. (CFC2810.4)
 14. The owner or owner's authorized representative shall prepare a security management plan based on a security risk assessment and shall make the plan and assessment available to the fire code official upon request. (CFC 2810.5)
 15. Fire-flow requirements shall be determined by the fire code official. (CFC 2810.9)
 16. Portable fire extinguishers shall be selected, installed, and maintained in accordance with CFC Section 906. (CFC 2810.10)