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What does WorkSafeBC compliance mean to me?

On March 30, 2017 the WorkSafeBC Board of Directors approved changes to the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Regulation regarding storage racks. These changes took effect January 1, 2018. The regulations are in *Section 4.43.1, Storage Racks, in Part 4: General Conditions* and provide the requirements for employers to ensure the safety of their workers around storage racks.

The main objective of the regulation is to outline the safety requirements for storage racks in workplaces to ensure employers understand the hazards and controls associated with this common workplace equipment.

Section 4.43.1 applies to steel storage racks made of steel frames, beams, and associated accessories that are assembled into a structure to support materials and products as outlined in *subsection (1)*. For example, the most common steel storage racks that the regulations apply to are pallet racks and cantilever racks.

Section 4.43.1 does not apply to shelving and display fixtures used for retail purposes.

Subsection (2) further narrows the application to steel storage racks that are 8 feet or taller in height as measured from the floor to the top of the highest shelf on the storage rack. The requirements also apply to steel storage racks that are under 8 feet in height if the materials and products are loaded or unloaded off the storage rack by other than manual means (e.g. forklift, automated mechanical system).

In response to these regulations, Arpac has developed the following policy to ensure as a manufacturer, seller and installer of pallet racking, that we are meeting the standards set out in this regulation.

For steel storage rack systems 8 feet or taller in height as measured from the floor to the top of the highest shelf on the storage rack or under 8 feet in height and the materials and products are loaded or unloaded off the storage rack by other than manual means, ***Arpac can only supply an engineered drawing that has been signed and sealed by our Engineer.***

When providing drawings that contain loading information every engineer has a professional responsibility to determine the safe capacities based on good engineering practice which includes compliance with building code including seismic design per the Engineers & Geoscientists British Columbia {[Member Advisory 2018-05: New Regulations for Steel Storage Racks](#)} and the *WorkSafeBC Regulation 4.43.1, Storage racks*. Drawings are not required for hand-loaded only steel storage racks that are less than 8 feet high as measured from the floor to the top of the highest shelf.

We recognize the difficulty in navigating these regulations and are committed to helping you succeed in your business. If you require further clarification, please contact your local Arpac Sales Representative and they will be happy to assist you.

The following page contains links and excerpts from the WorkSafeBC website for your reference.

To comply with the Regulation, does the rated capacity have to include seismic loads on the rack system?

WorkSafeBC does not regulate design load factors, such as seismic loads, which may be used by the manufacturer or a professional engineer to calculate the rated capacities of rack systems. The rated capacity is determined during the engineering design, and it is the responsibility of the design engineer to determine the capacity based on professional engineering practice and good engineering design principles.

It is the responsibility of the employer to adhere to local building code requirements such as seismic requirements for racks. In B.C., these requirements vary between municipalities, so employers should contact their local authority to ask about seismic requirements for storage racks.

Frequently asked Questions:

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/law-policy/discussion-papers/g4-43-1-faqs-storage-rack-regulations?lang=en>

Pallet Rack Inspection Checklist:

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/checklist/pallet-rack-inspection-checklist?lang=en>

Guide to completing a Pallet Rack Inspection Checklist:

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/books-guides/guide-completing-pallet-rack-inspection-checklist?lang=en>

Storage Racks

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/health-safety/tools-machinery-equipment/storage-racks>