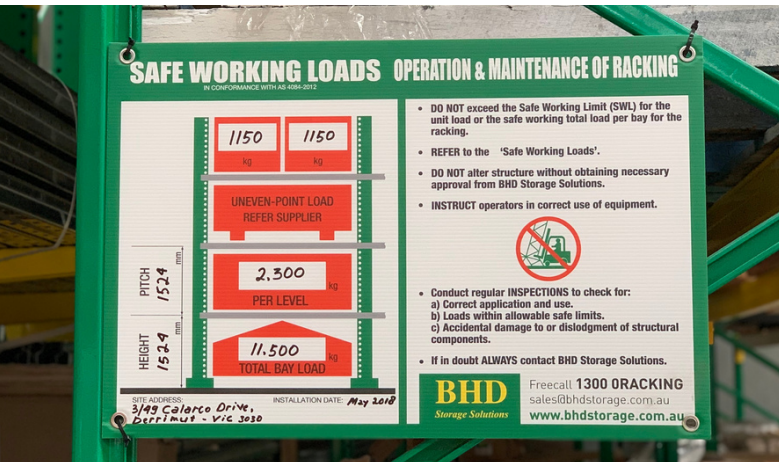


BHD Storage Solutions

Safe Work Load Signs



Are Safe Working Load Signs Necessary?

Every warehouse with a racking structure should hold the documentation of the racking in a secure place. This includes information on the installation from the racking supplier. Within these documents is an outline of the maximum capacity that the racking structure can safely store.

In many cases, these documents are stored in a cabinet that is not easily accessible to the users and operators of the racking system. Without access to this necessary information, operators of the racking system can make changes to the racking systems. As a result, unknowingly creating a dangerous environment. For instance, these changes to the racking structure can affect the racking load capacity.

Safe Working Load Signs – Requirements as set out in AS4084-2012

AS4084-2012 determines that a safe working limit (SWL) sign is to be mechanically secured to the racking structure. Likewise, safe working load signs are to be permanent and corrosion resistant, located where it is clearly visible.

Most importantly, the safe working load sign should include:

- the safe working unit load limit for each pallet
- the total working unit load limit for each shelf level
- the total working unit load limit for each bay
- height of first beam level from the floor and subsequent pitch per beam level

The racking supplier will provide the load safety signs and secure them to the racking after installation. That is to say that, it is the responsibility of the racking supplier to secure the SWL signs to the racking structure.

If there are any changes or modification to the racking system without approval, the safe working load signs could become invalid.

In conclusion, it is important for warehouse operators to consult the racking suppliers prior to making amendments to the racking structure, to re-evaluate the system. The racking structure may require new safe working load signs based on the changes. Load signs incorrectly applied to racking systems could cause warehouse safety incidents and be highly damaging to the business.

Additional information that should be included are:

- Racking use safety guidelines
- Racking manufacturer's name and installation date
- Inspection and maintenance dates

Train workers to understand and comply with the stated loads for the safety of the team, warehouse goods and your investment.

It is also important to note that any deviation or modifications to the original design by any unauthorised parties may impair the safety of the racking installation.

Lastly, ensure you schedule regular inspections, as set out in the standard AS4084-2012 to ensure your racking system is well maintained and kept in good condition at all times.