



# Commonly Asked Fire Protection Questions



40 x 48 FM Rack'r

## What constitutes an approved pallet?

An approved pallet has been tested by Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) or Factory Mutual (FM). The testing reviews the product's performance in extreme conditions such as extreme temperatures and fire retardancy.

## What does the approval mean?

Once a product is approved, its flame retardancy is rated as equivalent to wood.

## Why should an approved plastic pallet be considered?

The decision to use an approved plastic pallet is based upon the unique requirements of each different customer application, as well as facility attributes, storage practices and commodity classification. Customers should work with their insurer and ORBIS to analyze their operation for the ideal pallet solution relative to fire protection requirements.

## Are there flame-retardant and/or approved pallets available in the marketplace?

ORBIS offers a family of 12 rackable and stackable pallets in footprints from 40" x 48" to 48" x 48". ORBIS offers approved pallets with the flame retardant characteristics without sacrificing performance characteristics.



40 x 48 FM Structocell

## Available ORBIS approved pallets:

- 40 x 48 FM HD StructoCell
- 40 x 48 FM OP with lip
- 40 x 48 FM OP no lip
- 40 x 48 FM RACK'R
- 40 x 48 FM RackoCell with lip
- 40 x 48 FM RackoCell no lip
- 42 x 48 FM HD StructoCell
- 48 x 48 FM HD StructoCell
- 45 x 48 FM HD StructoCell A lip
- 45 x 48 FM HD StructoCell B lip
- 45 x 48 FM HD StructoCell C lip
- 45 x 48 FM Journey

Flame retardant materials are available for many rackable and non-rackable pallet styles. However, the rigorous UL and FM approval process involves time-consuming and expensive testing. ORBIS is proud to have completed this approval process for 12 of its popular pallets

## Do plastic pallets give off fumes, when burned, that are dangerous to my employees?

All smoke is toxic. Additionally, wood pallets can harbor toxins and chemicals.

## How does fire code legislation affect my facility?

The current fire code legislation requires certain levels of fire protection, depending on:

- Commodity classification
- Facility attributes
- Storage practices
- Pallet style

## Who writes the Fire Code legislation?

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) writes the code and each state adopts it into law. THE NFPA code is reviewed and updated every 3 years. Commodity classifications and sprinkler requirements are subject to change and need to be determined by appropriate insurance carrier, local fire/building inspectors and risk management/fire protection consultants.

## Are there insurance implications of using plastic pallets?

As with any commodity classification change, insurance is subject to change.

Reusable packaging can reduce CASUALTY INSURANCE, through reduced lacerations, strains, sprains and slivers. PROPERTY INSURANCE, covering fire, flood, wind and weather, is always subject to change with changes in commodity classification, facility attributes or storage practice.



40 x 48 UL Rack'r

## When building a new facility, what resources are available to consult about fire protection levels involving the use of plastic pallets?

Please contact your insurance carrier, qualified fire protection agency or risk management consultant for further information. All information should be verified by a qualified risk manager.

# How does the Commodity Classification System Work?

## When classifying commodities, items are categorized into Classes and Groups.

What are examples of **Group A Plastics**?

- Polyethylene, Polypropylene, Polystyrene
- ABS, Acrylic, FRP, PET, Polycarbonate
- Polyurethane
- PVC with plasticizer

What are examples of **Group B Plastics**?

- Cellulosics (cellulose acetate, etc.)
- Chloroprene rubber
- Certain Fluoroplastics
- Nylon
- Silicone rubber
- Protect as Class IV commodity

What are examples of **Group C Plastics**?

- Fluoroplastics PTFE (Teflon)
- Melamine
- Phenolic
- PVC (polyvinyl chloride - flexible PVCs with plasticizer)

What are examples of a **Class 4 Commodity**?

- Contains an amount (%) of a Group A, Group B or Group C plastics.

What are examples of a **Class 3 Commodity**?

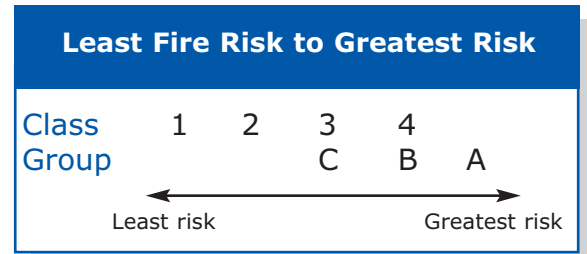
- Wood, paper, natural fibers, or Group C plastics with or without cartons, boxes or crates and with or without pallets.  
May contain a limited amount of Group A or Group B pallets.

What are examples of a **Class 2 Commodity**?

- Non-combustible product in wooden crates, solid wood boxes, multi-layered corrugated cartons, or equivalent combustible packaging material - with or without pallets

What are examples of a **Class 1 Commodity**?

- Brick, steel



PLEASE NOTE: All information should be verified by a qualified risk manager. Please contact your insurance carrier, qualified fire protection agency or risk management consultant for further information.

Hand-Held Containers Bulk Containers Pallets Custom Interior Dunnage World-Class Services



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FireProtection0204, 0-4035