



Racking Design Standards

Storage Equipment Manufacturers Association Ltd www.sema.org.uk

SEMA has developed an integrated approach to a safe storage environment, with design standards and guidelines supported by comprehensive training for installation and inspection of equipment, to help owners and users achieve their duties under the PUWER.

The **DESIGN AND USE RESPONSIBILITIES** is shown below:

Racking

Designed and installed to suit User operation

- Design ✓
- Installation ✓
- Use ✓

Layout

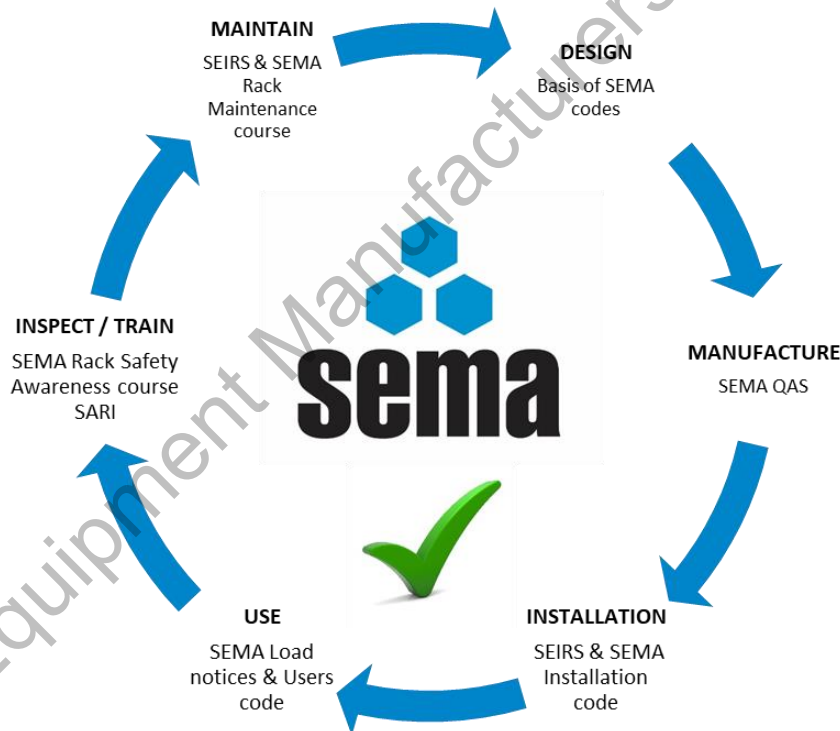
Suitable manoeuvring space and zone definition between pedestrians and trucks

- Design ✓

Trucks

Appropriate for the racking configuration and correctly maintained

- Design ✓
- Installation ✓
- Use ✓



Use

Suitably trained staff aware of procedures and risk assessments

- Use ✓
- Inspect / Train ✓

Inspection and maintenance.

Inspected and maintained in accordance with SEMA and manufacturers recommendations

- Inspect / Train ✓
- Maintain ✓

In the UK, quality assurance of your racking system comes when it has been designed to either the SEMA Code or EN15512. Therefore, it is acceptable to buy or sell storage equipment in the UK that has been designed to either of these codes.

SEMA Codes, BS EN's and Health and Safety Executive guidelines for racking are not law, but best practice. Racking and shelving storage systems are classified as work equipment and therefore, Owners and Users of a storage system have legal obligations under the Provision and Use of Work Equipment (PUWER) Regulations.

PUWER requires that equipment provided for use at work is:

- suitable for the intended use
- safe for use, maintained in a safe condition and inspected to ensure it is correctly installed and does not subsequently deteriorate
- used only by people who have received adequate information, instruction and training
- accompanied by suitable health and safety measures

The SEMA Design Code has been in use for over 40 years, updated in 2020, and has a long history of providing racking with a high standard of safety. The SEMA design code together with the appropriate training will aid Users in meeting their obligations under PUWER.

SEMA codes, guidelines and training courses are recognised and referenced in HSE publications. Health and Safety Inspectors and Environmental Health Officers will use these documents to inform their decision making.

The biggest difference between using SEMA design codes and other design codes is that the SEMA design codes are part of an integrated quality approach including manufacture, installation, information on correct use, training, inspection and maintenance as shown in the DESIGN AND USE RESPONSIBILITIES.

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