

Pallet production specification

Part 2: Construction specification for 1000 mm x 1200 mm flat wooden pallets

ICS 55.180.20

National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN 13698-2:2009. It supersedes BS EN 13698-2:2003 which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee PKW/0/-/11, Wood.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

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Pallet production specification - Part 2: Construction specification for 1000 mm x 1200 mm flat wooden pallets

Spécification de produit pour les palettes - Partie 2 :
Spécification de fabrication des palettes plates en bois, de
dimensions 1000 mm x 1200 mm

Produktspezifikation für Paletten - Teil 2: Herstellung von 1
000 mm x 1 200 mm-Flachpaletten aus Holz

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Foreword

This document (EN 13698-2:2009) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 261 "Packaging", the secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by December 2009, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by December 2009.

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Introduction

Tests on the perimeter base pallet and over 30 years of experience with the skid pallet in through transit of goods, have demonstrated that these designs of pallet comply with the relevant dimensional requirements and appropriate tests specified in certain standards. This certifies that the quality of the pallet is suitable for normal purposes as regards the physical stresses involved in distribution and handling.

1 Scope

This European Standard specifies the manufacturing characteristics of flat re-usable wooden 1000 mm × 1200 mm, double deck, non-reversible, 4-way entry, 9 block skid and perimeter base pallets suitable for transport, storage, handling or exchange use. It also gives some requirements for manufacture and marking and addresses the issue of safety.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EN 717-1, *Wood-based panels – Determination of formaldehyde release – Part 1: Formaldehyde emission by the chamber method*

EN 1087-1, *Particleboards – Determination of moisture resistance – Part 1: Boil test*

EN 1310:1997, *Round and sawn timber – Method of measurement of features*

EN 12246:1999, *Quality classification of timber used in pallets and packaging*

EN 13183-1, *Moisture content of a piece of sawn timber – Part 1: Determination by oven dry method*

EN 13183-2, *Moisture content of a piece of sawn timber – Part 2: Estimation by electrical resistance method*

EN 13382, *Flat pallets for materials handling – Principal dimensions*

EN ISO 445:1998, *Pallets for materials handling – Vocabulary (ISO 445:1996)*

EN ISO 8611-1:2004, *Pallets for materials handling – Flat pallets – Part 1: Test methods for flat pallets (ISO 8611-1:2004)*

ISO 3133, *Wood – Determination of ultimate strength in static bending*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in EN ISO 445:1998 and the following apply.

3.1

stacking

placing of pallets with unit loads, one upon the other, without recourse to intermediate shelves or racking

3.2

nominal load

reference load capacity, in kilograms, assuming an uniformly distributed load

3.3

safe working load

maximum load capacity, in kilograms, in a defined loading situation

3.4

concentrated load

load concentrated over an area between 30 % and 85 % of the pallet deck

3.5
uniformly distributed load

load spread evenly across the full surface of the pallet deck

3.6
solid load

single, compact, rigid, homogeneous load, covering approximately the complete surface of the pallet

4 Pallet types

4.1 Type 1

Re-useable wooden flat pallet, double deck, non-reversible, 4-way entry, skid pallet.

4.2 Type 2

Re-useable wooden flat pallet, double deck, non-reversible, 4-way entry, perimeter base pallet.

5 Nominal and safe working loads

The nominal load of pallets conforming to this standard will be established by tests conducted under the review of EN ISO 8611. Annex E gives general information on safe working loads under different loading conditions.

6 Construction

6.1 Materials

6.1.1 Timber species

Timber species are given in Annex A.

6.1.2 Timber quality grade

The timber quality grade shall conform to A.2.

6.1.3 Moisture content

Moisture content shall be determined in accordance with EN 13183-1 or EN 13183-2.

At the time of delivery the moisture content of the component parts of the pallets shall not exceed 22 %.

The reference moisture content shall be 20 %.

NOTE Dimensions at other moisture levels may be calculated using the correction factors given in Annex B.

6.1.4 Particle board

High density, moisture resistant particle board conforming to A.3 is permitted for blocks.

6.1.5 Fasteners

Pallets shall be assembled with fasteners conforming to A.4.

6.2 Design and manufacture

6.2.1 Component parts

6.2.1.1 Type 1: Skid pallet 1000 mm × 1200 mm

Component parts of the skid pallet 1000 mm × 1200 mm shall conform to Table 1 and Figure 1.

Table 1 — Component parts for the skid pallet 1000 mm × 1200 mm

Part ^a	Component ^a	Number of components	Dimensions at 20% moisture content mm		
			Length	Width ^b	Thickness ^b
1	top deck lead board	2	1200 ± 3	145 ⁺⁷ ₋₃	22 ⁺² ₀
2	intermediate top deck board	4	1200 ± 3	100 ± 3	22 ⁺² ₀
3	central top deck board	1	1200 ± 3	145 ⁺⁷ ₋₃	22 ⁺² ₀
4	stringer board	3	1000 ± 3	145 ⁺⁷ ₋₃	25 ⁺² ₀
5	bottom deck board	3	1200 ± 3	145 ⁺⁷ ₋₃	22 ⁺² ₀
6	block	9	145 ⁺⁷ ₋₃	145 ⁺⁷ ₋₃	78 ⁺¹ ₋₃
7	nail	27	See A.4.		
8	nail	27			
9	nail or staples	36			
^a	See Figure 1.				
^b	See Annex B.				

6.2.1.2 Type 2: Perimeter base pallet 1000 mm × 1200 mm

Component parts of the perimeter base pallet shall conform to Table 2 and Figure 2.

Table 2 — Component parts of perimeter base pallet 1000 mm × 1200 mm

Part ^a	Component ^a	Number of components	Dimensions at 20 % moisture content		
			mm		
			Length	Width ^b	Thickness ^b
1	top deck lead and central top deck board	3	1200 ± 3	120 ± 3	22 ⁺² ₀
2	Intermediate top deck board	2	1200 ± 3	120 ± 3	22 ⁺² ₀
3	Intermediate top deck board	2	1200 ± 3	100 ± 3	22 ⁺² ₀
4	stringer board	3	1000 ± 3	145 ⁺⁵ ₋₃	22 ⁺² ₀
5	bottom length deck board	3	1000 ± 3	120 ± 3	22 ⁺² ₀
6	bottom width deck board	2	1000 ± 3	100 ± 3	22 ⁺² ₀
7	block	9	145 ⁺⁵ ₋₃	120 ± 3	98 ± 2
8	square twisted or annular ring rolled nail	27	See A.4.		
9	square twisted or annular ring rolled nail	39			
10	plain shank nail	36			
<p>a See Figure 2. b See Annex B.</p>					

6.2.2 Boards and blocks

All boards and natural timber blocks shall be of one piece.

The outer surfaces of the top and bottom decks shall be unplanned.

The wood fibres of the outer skid blocks shall be parallel to the longitudinal axis of the pallet.

Blocks shall be of natural timber or particle board (see 6.1.4).

6.2.3 Pallet assembly and fastener positions

6.2.3.1 General

All fasteners shall be driven in vertically, at a minimum of 20 mm from the edges of the boards, and, for particle board blocks, a minimum of 20 mm from the centre hole if present. Fasteners shall not be inserted parallel to the wood grain (which may split the board or block) and shall be spaced as far apart as possible. Nail heads shall not protrude above the surface of the board (this also applies after drying the pallet) or be sunk below the board surface by more than 3 mm. Fasteners shall not pierce the sides of blocks.

No splits resulting from nailing shall be visible on the blocks or boards after assembly.

6.2.3.2 Assembly deck board: block

For each block, a minimum of three nails shall be used on both the top and bottom surfaces.

The bottom deck length board of the perimeter base pallet shall be fixed to the outer blocks with two nails.

6.2.3.3 Assembly top deck board: stringer board

A minimum of three fasteners shall be used for fixing each intermediate top deck board to a stringer board.

Any fastener protruding below the stringer board shall be bent back.

NOTE A staple is considered to be a single fastener.

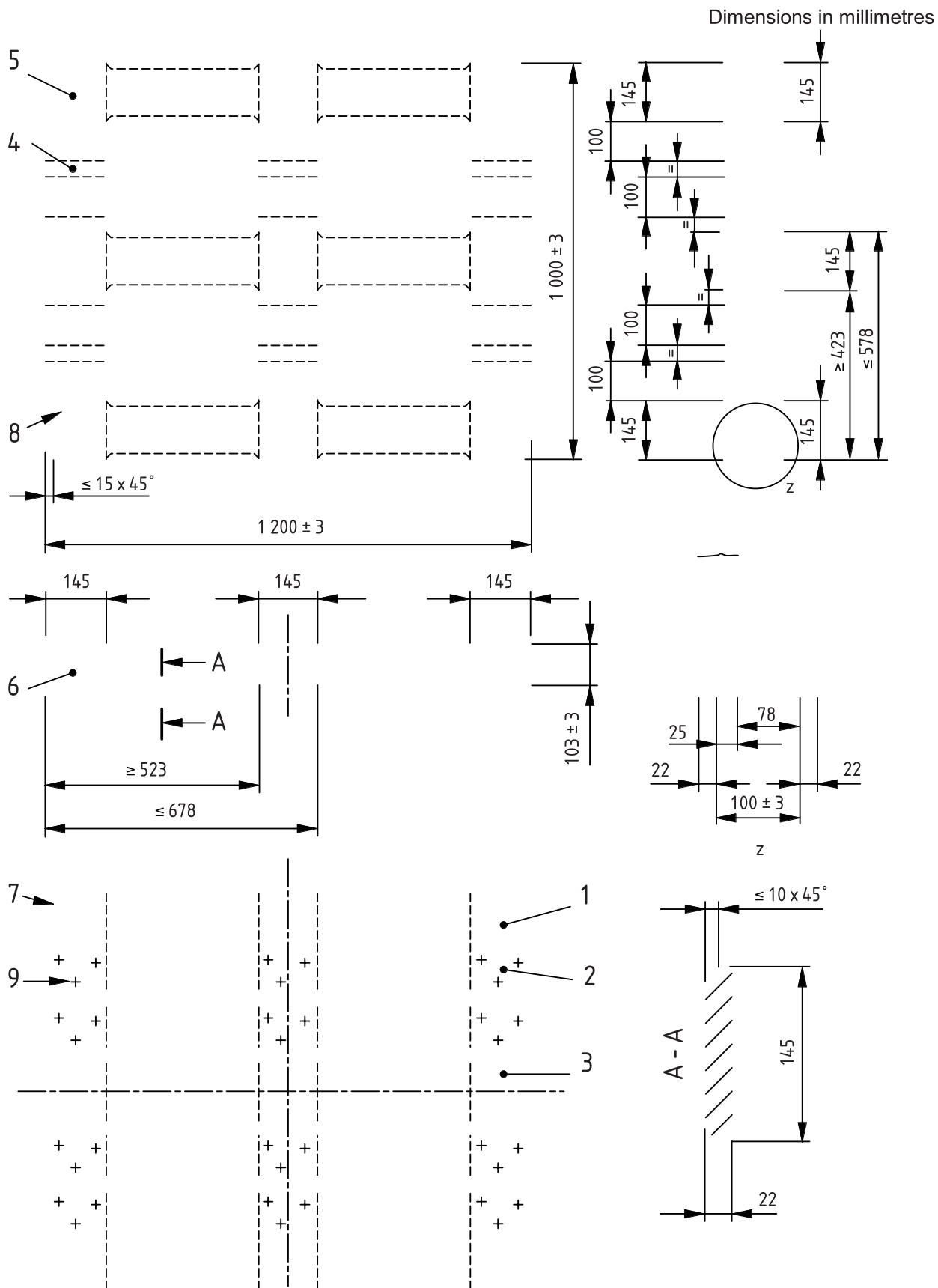
6.3 General assembly details

General assembly details of the pallets, including dimensions and tolerances, shall conform to Table 3 and to Figure 1 for skid pallet and to Figure 2 for perimeter base pallet. The chamfering of the bottom deck boards shall be on all bottom deck boards. All dimensions shall be in conformity with EN 13382.

Table 3 — General assembly – Overall tolerances in millimetres

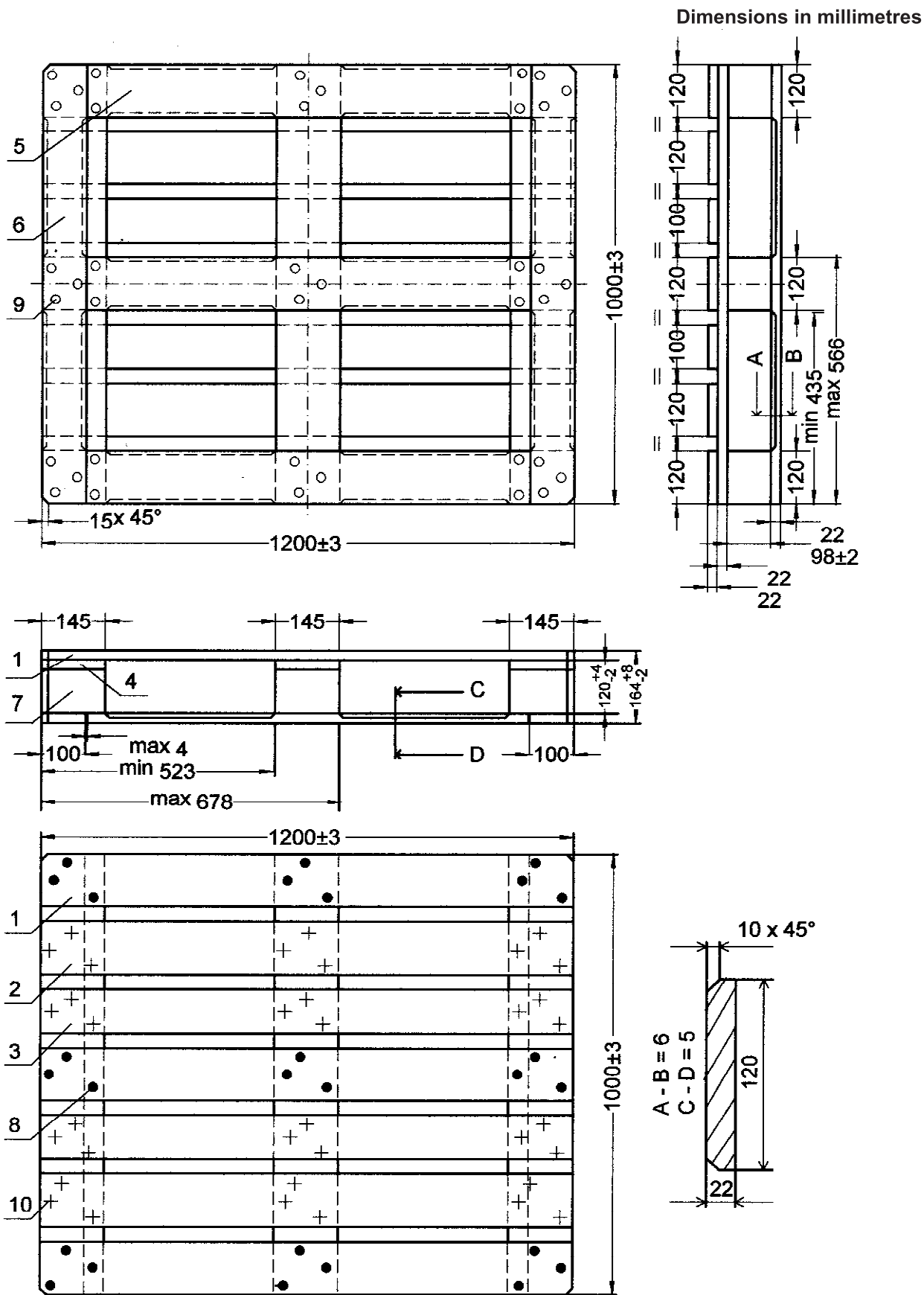
Dimension	Tolerance
Length	1200 ± 3
Width	1000 ± 3
Height of skid pallet	147 ⁺⁷ ₀
Height of perimeter base pallet	164 ⁺⁸ ₋₂

NOTE Height tolerances are the sum of the tolerances of the individual components.



Key
 See Table 1.

Figure 1 — General assembly details, skid pallet



Key
See Table 2.

Figure 2 — General assembly, perimeter base pallet

6.4 Assembly strength

6.4.1 Diagonal rigidity

Test for diagonal rigidity in accordance with EN ISO 8611-1:2004 (Test No 10) on three pallets with six corner drops on each pallet (same corner throughout). The drop height shall be 1 m.

After the test, the pallets shall not be distorted by more than 3 % of the initial value (measured as the mean distortion for all three pallets).

6.4.2 Separation force

The joints of the pallet shall be tested using the joint separation test in accordance with Annex C. The arithmetic mean of the recorded separation force, and at least 75 % of all recordings, shall be equal to or higher than the following:

- a) block/stringer board/top deck board: 5,5 kN;
- b) block/bottom deck board: 5,5 kN;
- c) stringer board/intermediate top deck board: 3,0 kN.

7 Inspections and marking

Before delivery, pallets shall be inspected for quality.

Pallets in conformity with this standard shall be marked on the outer side of the centre block with the number of this European Standard, the mark of the country and of the manufacturer.

NOTE 1 Pallets used in pooling or exchange systems may be marked in accordance with the guidelines defined at the pooling or exchange system.

NOTE 2 Pallets manufactured in conformity with this standard may be required to comply with National Authority marking requirements.

NOTE 3 Plant Health recommendations are constantly under review and pallets may need to be marked accordingly.

Annex A (normative)

Materials

A.1 Timber

A.1.1 General

Pallets shall be constructed from the timber species listed in Table A.1 and in A.1.2.

Table A.1 — European grown wood

Softwood (conifer)	Hardwood (deciduous)
Douglas	Acacia
Pine	Alder
Fir	Ash
Larch	Beech
Spruce	Birch
	Chestnut
	Elm
	Maple
	Oak
	Plane
	Poplar

A.1.2 Other timber species

If other timber species are taken into consideration for manufacturing pallets in conformity with this standard, these species shall have an ultimate strength in static bending of at least 42 N/mm², tested on small clear samples with a moisture content of 20 %, in accordance with ISO 3133, and the pallets manufactured from these species shall be tested according to EN ISO 8611-1:2004 (bending test) before starting the production.

A.2 Timber quality grade

The quality of sawn timber for pallet components (except stringer boards) shall conform to Table A.2. The quality of sawn timber for stringer boards shall conform to Tables A.2 and A.3. Timber containing bark shall not be used.

Table A.2 — Quality of sawn timber in pallets

Criterion	Requirement (EN 12246:1999, Class P1)
Knots: – intergrown, partially intergrown, dead – loose – unsound – branched	On both faces, knots shall be measured in accordance with 4.1.2 of EN 1310:1997. Knots shall be disregarded on the edges. Knots less than 10 mm shall be disregarded. Knot clusters shall be considered as individual knots. Shall be $\leq 33\%$ of the width of the piece. Shall be ≤ 20 mm. Shall be ≤ 20 mm. Permitted.
Exposed pith	Permitted on one face.
Boxed heart	Permitted.
Shakes: – surface shake – split (in boards) – split (in bearers and blocks)	Shakes shall be taken into account on the ends, faces and edges. Shakes shall be measured in accordance with EN 1310. Permitted except at points of nailing. One split permitted \leq width of the board. Not permitted.
Resin pocket	Permitted on one face only.
Bark pocket	Not permitted.
Blue stain ^a	
Biological degradations (except blue stain)	Not permitted.
Active insect infestation	Not permitted.
Insect holes (non active)	Up to 5 holes of diameter ≤ 3 mm permitted.
Wane (without bark)	Wane shall be measured in accordance with clause 4 of EN 1310:1997. Permitted up to $\leq 25\%$ of the piece length. up to 33% of the thickness and allowed both sides of one face if ≤ 10 mm from each side.
^a See Annex D.	

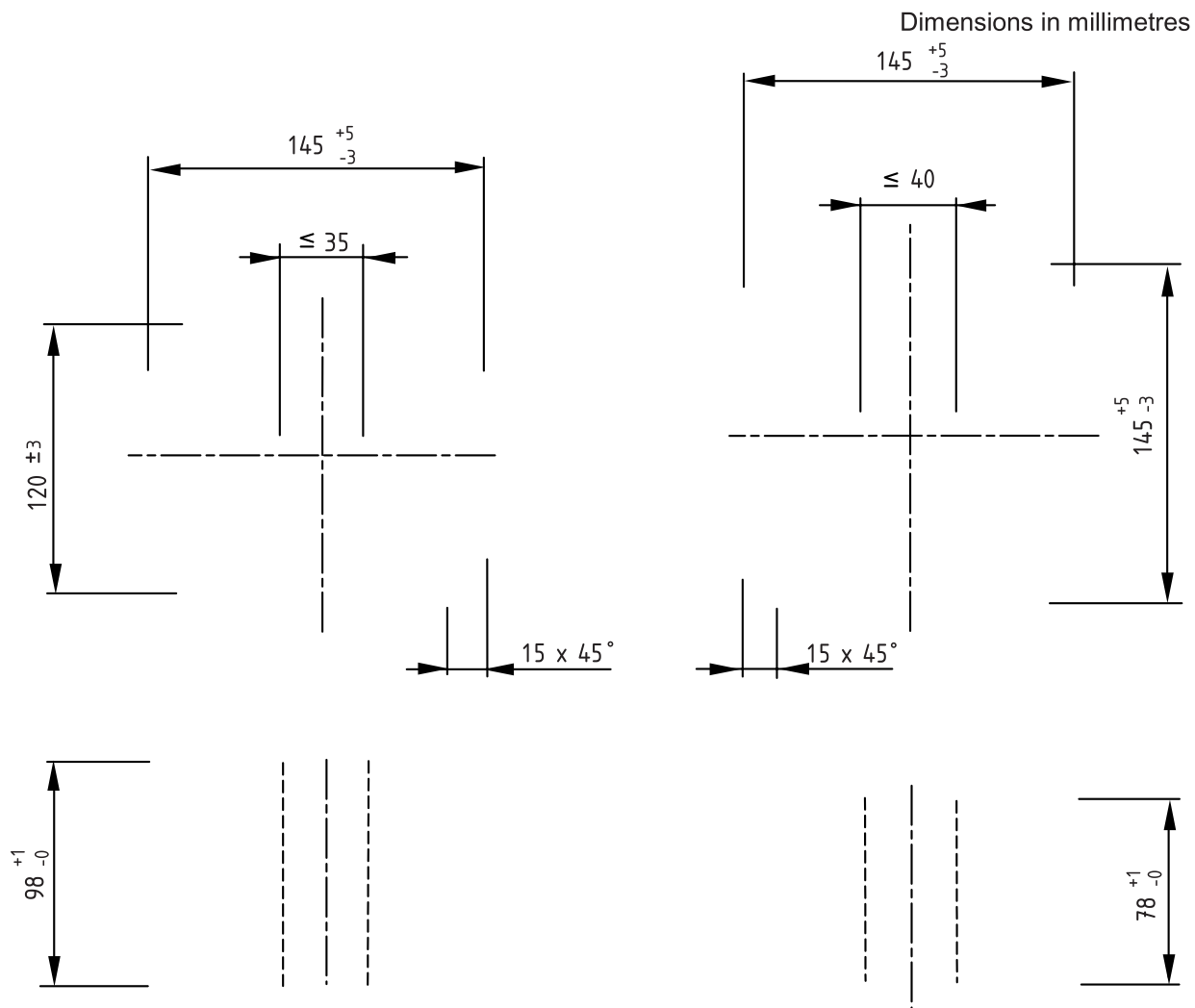
Table A.3 — Quality of sawn timber for stringer boards

Criterion	Requirement
Knots– intergrown, partially intergrown, dead	$\leq 25\%$ of piece width.
Wane	Not permitted.
Slope of grain	$\leq 5\%$.

A.3 Particle board

Particle board shall only be used for blocks. The material shall conform to Figure A.1 and the following:

- a) depending on the manufacturing process, blocks shall be rectangular or provided with chamfered edges of $15 \text{ mm} \times 45^\circ$ and with or without a central hole; the diameter of any hole shall not exceed 35 mm for blocks $145 \text{ mm} \times 120 \text{ mm}$ or 40 mm for blocks $145 \text{ mm} \times 145 \text{ mm}$;
- b) the mean weight per unit volume shall be $\geq 580 \text{ kg/m}^3$;
- c) the moisture content shall be between 7 % and 13 %;
- d) the material shall give a formaldehyde emission of $< 0,1 \text{ ml}$ per cubic metre of air, when determined in accordance with EN 717-1;
- e) the efficiency of the bonding process shall be determined by the following tests:
 - 1) size variation test, after 24 h immersion in water at 20°C , measured on 10 test pieces:
 - i) the length and width shall not increase by more than 2 %;
 - ii) the height shall not vary by more than 4,5 %, except that one of the ten blocks may vary between 4,5 % and 5,5 %;
 - 2) tests for retention of material strength, absence of splits, loss of cohesion after test cycle, and determination of bond quality, in accordance with EN 1087-1 involving:
 - i) a 2-h immersion in water at 100°C under ambient pressure,
 - ii) 2 h in the oven at $65^\circ \text{C} (\pm 3^\circ \text{C})$.



NOTE The examples in this diagram are shown with both hole and chamfer. Blocks are not required to have either.

Figure A.1— Particle board blocks

A.4 Fasteners

A.4.1 Nails for block/stringer board/top deck board assemblies

Nails for block/stringer board/top deck board assemblies shall conform to Table A.4.

Table A.4— Nails for block/stringer board/top deck board assemblies

Property	Specification
Minimum length	88 mm ^a
Dimension of nail head	min 8,4 mm (diameter) or min 55 mm ²
Ratio of head diameter to shank diameter	≥ 2
Nail shank type	spiral rolled, annular ring rolled, square twisted, indented shank
Minimum tensile strength ^b	700 N/mm ²
Nail point type	Diamond or chisel point
^a This value is valid for a standard nominal dimension of (90 ± 2) mm.	
^b See EN 10002-1.	

A.4.2 Nails for block/bottom deck board assemblies

Nails for block/bottom deck board assemblies shall conform to Table A.5.

Table A.5— Fasteners for block/bottom deck board assemblies

Property	Specification
Minimum length	68 mm ^a
Dimension of nail head	min 8,4 mm (diameter) or min 55 mm ²
Ratio of nail head diameter to shank diameter	≥ 2
Nail shank type	spiral rolled, annular ring rolled, square twisted, indented shank
Minimum tensile strength ^b	650 N/mm ²
Nail point type	diamond or chisel point
^a This value is valid for a standard nominal dimension of (70 ± 2) mm.	
^b See EN 10002-1.	

A.4.3 Fasteners for stringer board/top deck board assemblies

Fasteners for stringer board/top deck board assemblies shall conform to Tables A.6, A.7 or A.8 as appropriate.

Table A.6 — Nails bent back on the lower surface of the stringer board

Property	Specification
Minimum length	50 mm ^a
Dimension of nail head	min 5,5 mm (diameter) or min 24 mm ²
Ratio of nail head diameter to shank diameter	≥ 2
Nail shank type	plain, spiral rolled, annular ring rolled, square twisted, indented shank
Minimum tensile strength ^b	800 N/mm ²
Nail point type	diamond or diamond offset
^a This value is valid for standard nominal dimensions of (55 $\begin{smallmatrix} +2 \\ -5 \end{smallmatrix}$) mm and (60 ± 2) mm. ^b See EN 10002-1.	

Table A.7 — Nails that do not pierce the stringer board

Property	Specification
Length	min 36 mm , max 41 mm ^a
Dimension of nail head	min 5,5 mm (diameter) or min 24 mm ²
Ratio of nail head diameter to shank diameter	≥ 2
Nail shank type	spiral rolled, annular ring rolled, square twisted, indented shank
Minimum tensile strength ^b	600 N/mm ²
Nail point type	diamond or chisel point
^a This value is valid for a standard nominal dimension of (38 $\begin{smallmatrix} +3 \\ -2 \end{smallmatrix}$) mm. ^b See EN 10002-1.	

Table A.8 Staples bent back on the lower surface of the stringer board

Property	Specification
Length	min 53 mm
Width (inside)	min 14 mm
Thickness of wire	min 2,2 mm
Shank type	Plain
Tensile strength	760 N/mm ²
Point type	diamond offset

Annex B (informative)

Wood shrinkage – Comparative wood shrinkage/expansion rates

At the saw milling stage, it is necessary to consider the machining allowances taking into account the moisture content, consequent shrinkage of the wood, and dressing, smoothing or planing operations.

Table B.1 gives comparative wood shrinkage/expansion rates, valid for all species, for determination of dimensions at alternative moisture contents to 20 %.

Table B.1 — Minimum dimensions in relation to moisture content

Moisture content	Minimum actual dimension of nominal width and thickness ^a							
	(22 ⁺² ₀) mm (nominal)	(25 ⁺² ₀) mm (nominal)	(78 ⁺¹ ₀) mm (nominal)	(98 ±2) mm (nominal)	(100 ±3) mm (nominal)	(100 ⁺³ ₀) mm (nominal)	(120 ±3) mm (nominal)	(145 ⁺⁵ ₋₃) mm (nominal)
%	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm
30	22,5	25,5	80,0	98,5	99,5	102,5	119,5	145,5
29	22,5	25,5	80,0	98,0	99,0	102,0	119,5	145,0
28	22,5	25,5	79,5	98,0	99,0	102,0	119,0	145,0
27	22,5	25,5	79,5	97,5	98,5	101,5	119,0	144,5
26	22,5	25,5	79,0	97,5	98,5	101,5	118,5	144,0
25	22,5	25,5	79,0	97,0	98,0	101,0	118,5	144,0
24	22,0	25,0	79,0	97,0	98,0	101,0	118,0	143,5
23	22,0	25,0	78,5	96,5	97,5	100,5	118,0	143,0
22	22,0	25,0	78,5	96,5	97,5	100,5	117,5	142,5
21	22,0	25,0	78,0	96,0	97,0	100,0	117,5	142,5
20	22,0	25,0	78,0	96,0	97,0	100,0	117,0	142,0
19	22,0	25,0	78,0	96,0	97,0	100,0	116,5	141,5
18	22,0	25,0	77,5	95,5	96,5	99,5	116,5	141,5
17	22,0	25,0	77,5	95,5	96,5	99,5	116,0	141,0
16	22,0	25,0	77,0	95,0	96,0	99,0	116,0	140,5
15	21,5	24,5	77,0	95,0	96,0	99,0	115,5	140,0
14	21,5	24,5	77,0	94,5	95,5	98,5	115,0	140,0
13	21,5	24,5	76,5	94,5	95,5	98,5	115,0	139,5
12	21,5	24,5	76,5	94,0	95,0	98,0	114,5	139,0

^a The thickness and the width of a piece of timber increase by 0,25 % for every 1 % of moisture content from 20 % up to 30 %, and decrease by 0,25 % for every 1 % of moisture content. below 20 %. The above values are typical, regardless of the species (see EN 1313-1 and EN 1313-2).

Annex C (normative)

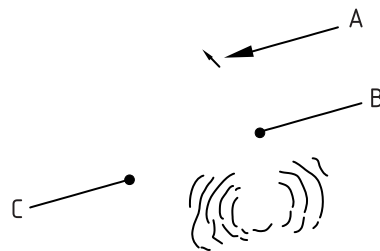
Joint separation test

C.1 Test apparatus

The test apparatus shall conform to Figure C.1. Two stirrups shall be prepared, with stirrup B attached to a pallet block (or stringer board), and stirrup C pressing on to an adjoining board.

A gauge shall be positioned to measure the force (at A) required to separate the block and board.

The accuracy of the measuring gauge shall be at least 4 % of the nominal separation force.



Key

- A Force indicator
- B Stirrup
- C Stirrup

Figure C.1 — Joint separation test apparatus

C.2 Test pieces

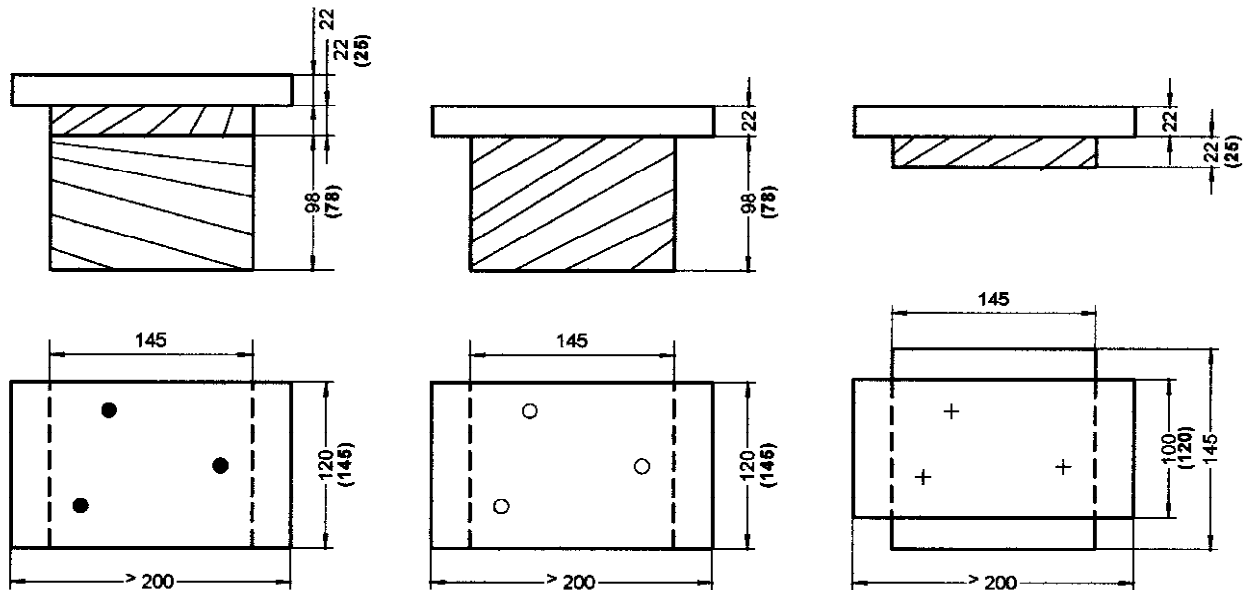
Cut test pieces conforming to Figure C.2 from workable pallets.

NOTE The moisture content of the wood should be (20 ± 2) %.

For each type of assembly, wood and fastener, perform the following tests:

- a) a new fasteners test (20 test pieces);
- b) production control tests (10 test pieces; at the start of production, if changing the type of wood or fasteners, or changing production methods).

Dimensions in millimetres



Block/stringerboard/top deckboard

block/bottom deckboard

Intermediate top
deckboard/stringerboard

Figure C.2 — Test pieces

C.3 Procedure

Apply a separating force across the block and board slowly and smoothly, and measure the resulting tear strength.

C.4 Test results

The test pieces shall conform to 6.4.2.

C.5 Report

The test report shall contain:

- the type, dimensions, and material of the fasteners, with tolerances and drawings;
- the wood species used for the blocks and boards;
- the moisture content of each test piece;
- the separation force of each test piece;
- the mean separation force for each assembly.

Annex D (normative)

Preservatives – General policy

Mechanical properties are not affected by blue stain. Stain can be avoided by kiln drying or other means.

If some species have to be protected in view to avoid blue stain, products used have to be in respect of the requirements of the directive BIOCIDES (98-8-CE). The directive has taken into account (Clause 3) human and animal health and environmental risks. This directive is therefore in line with one of the first considerations fixed in the Directive 94/62 CE concerning packaging and packaging waste.

Annex E
(informative)

Safe working load under different loading conditions – General policy

Pallets conforming to this standard should have safe working loads as described in Table E.1 for skid pallets and in Table E.2 for perimeter base pallets.

Table E.1 — Safe working loads of skid pallets in racking condition

	▼	▼
	▲ ▲	▲ ▲
Concentrated load	*)	*)
Uniformly distributed load	*)	*)
Uniformly distributed bonded load	*)	*)
solid load	*)	*)

Table E.2 — Safe working loads of perimeter base pallets in racking condition

	▼	▼
	▲ ▲	▲ ▲
Concentrated load	*)	*)
Uniformly distributed load	*)	*)
Uniformly distributed bonded load	*)	*)
Solid load	*)	*)

*) Values will be inserted after the completion of studies for the future EN ISO 8611-2 and EN ISO 8611-3.

Bibliography

- [1] EN 1313-1, *Round and sawn timber – Permitted deviations and preferred sizes – Part 1: Softwood sawn timber*
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- [5] ISO/TS 8611-2, *Pallets for materials handling – Flat pallets – Part 2: Performance requirements and selection of tests*
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- [7] Directive 98/8/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 1998 concerning the placing of biocidal products on the market
- [8] Directive 94/62/CE of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 1994 on packaging and packaging waste

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