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## **Pallets for materials handling — Flat pallets —**

### **Part 1: Test methods**

*Palettes pour la manutention — Palettes plates —  
Partie 1: Méthodes d'essai*



Reference number  
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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 8611-1 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 51, *Pallets for unit load method of materials handling*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 8611-1:2004), which has been technically revised.

ISO 8611 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Pallets for materials handling — Flat pallets*:

- *Part 1: Test methods*
- *Part 2: Performance requirements and selection of tests*
- *Part 3: Maximum working loads*

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## Introduction

The forces to which pallets are exposed during use vary significantly. The test procedures described in this part of ISO 8611 are approximate simulations of pallet use. These tests help the pallet designer to establish an initial acceptable balance between the cost and the performance of a pallet design. It is intended that all results of tests performed using this protocol be confirmed and verified using field trials before publication of performance or the commercial implementation of a new pallet design.

The nominal load, determined according to this test protocol, does not represent a payload and cannot be verified using field trials. The nominal load is a minimum payload level for use in determining maximum working load according to the procedures in ISO 8611-3. The maximum working load can be verified for a specified payload and intended use, using field trials. It is intended that the publication of the maximum working load include a description of the payload and the intended modes of use of the pallet.

It is essential to exercise care when comparing the results of tests with historic experience using existing pallet designs. User expectations of pallet performance vary. Some require greater and some accept lower levels of performance. Users are accepting different levels of risk when using pallets. Because of the varied performance expectations of pallet users, the results of tests might not always reflect the user's perception of pallet performance in use.

The nominal load might not reflect users' perception of pallet performance because the nominal load does not represent a payload. It is intended that maximum working loads be used to compare with the historic performance of existing pallet designs.

Regarding the use of the ISO 8611 series,

- this part of ISO 8611 describes the test methods,
- ISO 8611-2 describes the performance requirements and selection of tests, and
- ISO 8611-3 describes tests for determining maximum working loads for known payloads.

This part of ISO 8611 and ISO 8611-2 are required for determining nominal load. The nominal load is the lowest safe load value for the specified support conditions, independent of the type of load (excluding concentrated loads).

This part of ISO 8611, ISO 8611-2 and ISO 8611-3 are required for determining maximum working loads for known payloads.

The nominal load for the intended use is established by the selection of tests in this part of ISO 8611 and the performance requirement is established from criteria in ISO 8611-2.

The following three types of intended use with specified support conditions are defined:

- handling of loaded pallets with racking and stacking;
- handling of loaded pallets without racking;
- handling of loaded pallets without racking or stacking.

To determine the maximum working load through testing given in ISO 8611-3, the deflection under the known payload cannot exceed the limiting deflection (see 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 of ISO 8611-3:2011) established in this part of ISO 8611 and ISO 8611-2. The maximum working load is the greatest payload that a pallet can be permitted to carry in a specific loading and support condition.

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Guidance is given in Annex A of ISO 8611-3:2011 as to the general effect on performance of different load types and stabilization methods. These can only give guidance as to the likely result from tests with the known payload.

Other tests for durability evaluation are specified in this part of ISO 8611.