



Designation: D 6253 – 98

## Standard Practice for Marking of Pallets<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 6253; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last approval. A superscript epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

### 1. Scope

1.1 This practice covers the development of uniform marking practices for pallets and aids in identifying pallets as to intended service cycles, repair, the specific specification used to manufacture the new pallet, and other user designated characteristics.

1.2 This practice identifies new and repaired material handling pallets designed and constructed in accordance with government or industry recognized standards.

### 2. Referenced Documents

#### 2.1 ASTM Standards:

D 996 Terminology of Packaging and Distribution Environments<sup>2</sup>

#### 2.2 ASME Standard:

ASME MH1.8M-1996, Part 3, Wood Pallets<sup>3</sup>

#### 2.3 NFPA Standard:

NFPA 704, Standard System for Identification of Hazards of Materials for Emergency Response<sup>4</sup>

### 3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:* General definitions for the packaging and distribution environments are found in Terminology D 996.

#### 3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *certifying agency, n*—a qualified independent agency providing an audit service to verify the manufacturer or repairer has complied with government or industry-recognized standards.

3.2.2 *intended service cycle, n*—a marking applied to a materials handling pallet to identify a multiple-use or limited-use pallet (see 3.2.3 and 3.2.4).

3.2.3 *limited-use pallets (L), n*—intended for use in shipping only one unit load (also known as a *expendable* or *single-trip pallets*) (see Table 1).

<sup>1</sup> This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D-10 on Packaging and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D10.26 on Shipping Containers. Current edition approved April 10, 1998. Published November 1998.

<sup>2</sup> *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 15.09.

<sup>3</sup> Available from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, 345 E. 47th St., New York, NY 10017.

<sup>4</sup> Available from the National Fire Protection Association, Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02269.

TABLE 1 Pallet Intended Service Cycle Identification<sup>A</sup>

Letter Designation	Explanation
M	Multiple-use pallet
R	Repaired
L	Limited-use pallet

<sup>A</sup> This information may be found in ASME MH1.8 M.

3.2.4 *multiple-use pallets (M), n*—intended for reuse in shipping unit loads (also known as a *reusable* or *multi-trip pallets*) (see Table 1).

3.2.5 *repaired-pallet (R), n*—describes a pallet with original components replaced or modified (see Table 1).

### 4. Significance and Use

4.1 This practice establishes the criteria to mark pallets with permanent identification for the intended service cycle.

4.2 The marking of the pallet shall be performed after ensuring the pallet complies with the applicable specification.

### 5. Requirements

5.1 General pallets shall conform to a published industry or government standard, as applicable.

5.1.1 The following divisions under this section, detail the minimum marking (see Fig. 1) information to be applied to the pallet. Each identification will be separated by a space or mark. The location of the minimum marking information is at the discretion of the pallet manufacturer.

5.1.1.1 The manufacturer's, repair company, or identification code shall be applied to the pallet, for example, ABC, 123, FP, CHEP.

5.1.1.2 A marking identifying the industry or government specification (when applicable) followed during fabrication shall be applied to the pallet. The marking identifying the specification of conformance shall be coded, for example, GMA75, NP71C, MH1.

5.1.1.3 The month and year of manufacture and repair shall be marked, for example, 10 94, 05 94, 01 95, 01 201, 02 210.

5.1.1.4 The intended service cycles identification code shall be applied, for example, M, L, R.

5.1.2 The following additional information may be included in the marking of pallets by the direction of the manufacturer, repair company, or owner of the pallet.