



City of Poway

Fire Department

Fire Prevention Policy and Procedures

Rack Storage Requirements

All rack storage 8-feet and higher, requires a permit through the City of Poway Building Department prior to installation, this is to include any storage above the top horizontal bar. This will insure proper design methods required for the minimum compliance of seismic anchoring, structural design and load bearing capabilities, as well as proper aisle spacing and related exiting requirements.

Once rack storage reaches 12-feet in height, an annual permit from the fire department is required to maintain high-piled combustible storage. Special attention is given to the commodity (what is being stored) the density of the fire sprinkler system, shelving, aisles, longitudinal and transverse flue spaces.

Definitions

- **Commodity:** A combination of products, packing materials and containers to be stored on racks.
- **High-piled Combustible Storage:** Storage of combustible materials on pallets, on racks or on shelf's where the top of storage is greater than 12-feet.
- **Longitudinal Flue Space:** The space between back-to-back rows of rack storage or between the rack and wall perpendicular to the direction of loading.
- **Solid Shelving:** Shelving located within racks that obstruct fire sprinkler water penetration through the racks.
- **Transverse Flue Space:** The space between rows of storage parallel to the direction of loading.
- **Aisle:** The designated floor space separating rows of rack storage as well as the end cap of a row of rack storage.

Permitting Process

Begin the permit process at the counter of Developmental Services. Obtain a permit application with the Building Division. Planning Department approval is required for zoning purposes.

Building Division plan submittal requirements:

- Four sets of building plans to include; plot plan; floor plan and structural details of racks.
- Two sets of structural calculations for rack installation.
- The plans and calculations must be stamped and wet signed by a California Licensed Structural Engineer.
- A special inspection report is required by a third party for the seismic anchoring.

