

New recommendations for warehouse planners

Optimized fire protection for plastic load carriers

Frankfurt am Main, March 10, 2025. Plastic load carriers have become an indispensable part of modern automated warehouses. They are stable, durable and environmentally friendly. Nevertheless, their use poses challenges for warehouse planners and insurers in terms of fire protection. At the international logistics trade fair LogiMAT in Stuttgart, which starts on March 11, the leading suppliers of storage containers will be providing information about solutions in this area. The new position paper from the pro-K specialist group for storage and transport systems offers valuable recommendations and makes clear: fire protection only works together.

The planning recommendation and position paper, which was developed in collaboration with the global industrial property insurance company FM and Europe's largest institute for corporate security VdS Schadenverhütung GmbH, highlights that early involvement of the manufacturers of plastic load carriers in warehouse planning is essential. This not only reduces planning effort and costs, but also optimizes fire protection.

The entire logistics value chain is in demand

A key result: The current fire protection requirements of FM and VdS Schadenverhütung GmbH are becoming more similar. The previous distinction between water-permeable and water-impermeable load carriers is no longer valid. Modern fire protection concepts rely on improved shelf sprinkler technologies that are efficiently tailored to plastic load carriers.

In general, the decisive parameters for ensuring the fire protection of plastic load carriers can only be determined in close and early cooperation between automatic storage system providers (including fire protection technology), load carrier manufacturers and risk carriers (insurers). pro-K Managing Director Sven Weihe mentions: "Plastic load carriers are light, robust and durable – they enable sustainable reusable solutions and save resources thanks to their recyclability. At the same time, they must be integrated into warehouse planning at an early stage so that the highest safety standards in fire protection are guaranteed."

PRESS RELEASE

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The position paper serves as a guide for warehouse planners and operators. It reflects the interpretation of the manufacturers of the pro-K specialist group for storage and transport systems, organized in the plastic load carrier working group, with regard to the design of plastic load carriers/pallets and is available for download on the pro-K website.

About pro-K

As the sponsoring association of the General Association of the Plastics Processing Industry (GKV), the pro-K Industrial Association for Durable Plastic Products and Reusable Systems e.V. is the umbrella organization representing the manufacturers of consumer and semi-finished products made of plastic in relations with politics, business and society.

About FM

FM is a US-based industrial property insurance company offering general and specialized risk management, materials research, materials testing and certifications, primarily in the areas of natural disaster and fire protection.

About VdS Schadenverhütung GmbH

VdS Schadenverhütung GmbH is Europe's largest institute for corporate security and offers services with a focus on fire protection, security, cyber security, data protection, natural hazards, organization and education and publishes guidelines for security technologies that form the basis of EN standards.

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