

EUROPEAN PALLET ASSOCIATION e.V.




TECHNICAL REGULATIONS
concerning
MANUFACTURE, REPAIR AND IMPORT
of
QUALITY ASSURED PRODUCTS
and
INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS

Edition March 2003



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1. Application

- 1.1. The railways are entitled and obliged on the basis of the UIC codes 435-2, 435-3 and 435-4 and bilateral agreements to approve manufacturers, traders and repairers of exchange pallets and to verify and ensure compliance with the standards.
- 1.2. In so far as individual railways have concluded agreements with EPAL on the acceptance of these regulations, EPAL has to implement and carry through the approval and inspection procedure for the territory of the relevant railway on their behalf. Implementation of the order includes, among other things, the right of EPAL in particular to award to plants (manufacturers, traders, repairers) within the territory of the respective railway according to the conditions set forth in the UIC Codes 435-2 to 435-4 the marks of the railways,  and , and it also includes the obligation to monitor the proper use of these marks, and if necessary to withdraw the right to use the marks, and to have the compliance with the standards for exchange pallets examined by a neutral inspection company.
- 1.3. The period for the award of the marks has to correspond to the validity of the respective agreement between EPAL and the railways.

2. Definitions

Manufacture: Products newly manufactured and assembled all in one factory which are subject to quality assurance.


Trade: Purchase and retail of products which are subject to quality assurance.

Repair: Restoration of damaged and no longer exchangeable quality assured products.





Box pallet components: Kit consisting of finished floor frame with legs, steep angle top piece, complete hinged front panels with central bar, address panel and completed labelling panel, pre-fabricated corner posts with extension and lifting slots, pre-fabricated rear panel and side panel lattices.

Approval: Approval comprises the permission for and responsibility of marking all products to which the quality regulations apply (item 4) under terms of the Technical Regulations with the quality mark (item 3).

3. Quality marks


- 3.1. Quality assured products carry as a sign of the implemented quality inspection the protected trademark . The quality mark may only be applied and used by those entitled. Legal action will be taken against any unlawful use or imitation of the quality mark.

3.2. The quality marks used are:

- the  quality staple
- the  quality seal
- the  repair marking nail
- the  repair seal



4. Quality regulations

The following documents are currently valid for the manufacture, trade and repair of quality assured products:

- 4.1. UIC code 435-2 O, Standard of quality for a European flat pallet made of wood with four openings and measuring 800 mm x 1200 mm,
- 4.2. UIC code 435-3 O, Standard of quality for a European box pallet ,Y‘ made of steel with four openings and measuring 800 mm x 1200 mm,
- 4.3. UIC code 435-4 OR, Repair of EUR flat pallets and EUR box-pallets ,Y‘,
- 4.4. ÖBB/SBB standard ,wooden collar for pallets of dimensions 800 mm x 1200 mm (pallet pool collar),
- 4.5. ÖBB/SBB standard ,wooden lid for pallets with dimensions 800 mm x 1200 mm (pallet pool lid);
- 4.6. Regulations for repair (Appendix A),
- 4.7. Regulations for marking quality assured products (Appendix B),
- 4.8. Regulations for granting and using the mark  (Appendix C).

5. Approval of the manufacture, trade and repair of quality assured products

- 5.1. Application for approval to be made in writing to European Pallet Association e.V., General Secretariat, Hermelinweg 14, D-48157 Münster (Appendix 1).
- 5.2. After receipt of the application a plant inspection, for which the applicant has to bear the costs, is carried out by the inspection company by order of EPAL in accordance with the latest edition of the Performance Criteria for Uniform Inspections.
- 5.3. The inspection company reports to EPAL the results of the inspection.

- 5.4. The board of EPAL decides on the approval on the basis of the report delivered by the inspection company. The decision of the board of EPAL is made known to the applicant by the general secretariat in writing. In the event of a positive evaluation the approval will be granted (Appendix 2) and the respective certificate issued (Appendix 3).
- 5.5. In connection with the approval the applicant will be entitled to use the mark of the respective railway (which may be protected) and the protected trademarks  and  for marking the quality assured products as specified in the respective certificate.
- 5.6. The required branding plates or templates as well as the quality staples, the repair marking nails and the quality seals with the protected trademarks must be obtained through EPAL. The costs for production and delivery have to be borne by the manufacturers or repairers. The branding plates or templates as well as the quality staples, the repair marking nails and the quality seals remain the property of EPAL and must be returned to EPAL on withdrawal of the approval. Branding plates or templates as well as quality staples, repair marking nails and quality seals must not be made available to third parties. Unauthorised acquisition, alteration or imitation of the branding plates or templates as well as of the quality staples, the repair marking nails and the quality seals is not admissible and legal action will be taken against any such occurrence
- 5.7. The licence can be withdrawn as a result of
- punishment of violations against the Technical Regulations as set forth in Appendix C, Item 5.
 - cessation of production,
 - production standstill for a period of one year,
 - institution or rejection of bankruptcy proceedings, or after unsuccessful execution due to claims from EPAL, one of its national committees or one of its inspection companies,
 - the non-payment of due contributions and fees for the use of symbols to EPAL or one of its national committees if the withdrawal of authorisation has been announced in advance with a period of notice of two weeks by the General Secretariat or the national Committee,
 - the non-payment of due inspection fees if the withdrawal of authorisation has been announced in advance with a period of notice of two weeks by the General Secretariat

6. Inspection requirements

6.1. General

6.1.1. The inspections must be implemented in compliance with the standards and the random sample plans (Appendix 4).

6.1.2. Quality assured products are equipped with:

Type	With	position
flat pallet	staple, repair marking nail	central block on long side
Collar	staple, repair marking nail	on one end
Lid	staple, repair marking nail	on the top
box pallets	quality seal	on the inscription plate


box pallets components	quality seal	front left corner post
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6.2. Inspection of batch by the inspection company (level 1)

Level 1 does not apply to repairing activities.

- 6.2.1. The manufacturer has to apply for the inspection at the inspection company.
- 6.2.2. The manufacturer has to cooperate during the inspection and make available the products selected by the inspector as random samples for implementing the inspection.
- 6.2.3. The products have to be inspected by the inspection company in accordance with the random sample plan, Appendix 4.
- 6.2.4. In the event of a negative inspection result the manufacturer has to make the marks of all products permanently unidentifiable, when repeating the inspection the marks of those products that have been discarded.

6.3. Granting the right of internal control (level 2)

- 6.3.1. The manufacturer may apply to EPAL for the right of internal control (Appendix 5).
- 6.3.2. Prerequisites:
 - 6.3.2.1. The applicant must have been approved for the manufacture of quality assured products for a period of at least one year or must have produced and presented at least 100,000 pallets fully in accordance with the requirements in a shorter period of time or have a UIC approval for level 2.
 - 6.3.2.2. The applicant must have a continual production over a period of 6 months pursuant to the standards enabling an external control. A temporary production standstill for more than one month must be reported to the inspection company.
 - 6.3.2.3. Level 2 will be removed if less than 10.000 Europallets were produced during the previous 12 months.
 - 6.3.2.4. The permanent compliance with the regulations for marking quality assured products, with the Technical Regulations and with the regulations for granting and using the  quality mark.
- 6.3.3. The basis for granting the right of internal control is the evaluation report delivered by the inspection company.
- 6.3.4. With the respective certificate (Appendix 6) the applicant is granted the right of internal control.
 - 6.3.4.1. A limited authorisation is admissible.
- 6.3.5. When being granted the right of internal control the manufacturer commits himself to take the following measures:

- 6.3.5.1. continual control of the preliminary material,
 - 6.3.5.2. permanent supervision of the technical production facilities,
 - 6.3.5.3. continual daily supervision of production on the basis of the applicable random sample plans in terms of the daily production quantity (at least one flat pallet every 25 minutes, one box pallet, collar or lid every hour),
 - 6.3.5.4. supervision of quality inspections through marking with staples resp. seals by the responsible employee. The required staple machine may only be ordered via EPAL. The costs including shipment are to be borne by the manufacturer. The manufacturer has the right to purchase the quality marks directly. The use of the quality marks has to be recorded.
 - 6.3.5.5. The manufacturer must record the results of the inspection on the basis of test reports.
 - 6.3.5.6. The manufacturer undertakes to inform the inspection company in writing on the 5th of each month about the number of the UIC pallets, collars and lids produced during the previous month by means of monthly reports (Appendices 9 to 12) and deliver copies of the inspection results recorded in the course of the manufacturer's internal control.
- 6.4. Approval of the application of the quality assurance system in the course of internal control (level 3)
- 6.4.1. If a manufacturer/repairer has established a quality assurance system corresponding to ISO 9000, he can apply to EPAL for the acceptance of this system to be applied in the manufacture/repair of certain products.
 - 6.4.2. Prerequisites for approval:
 - 6.4.2.1. The manufacturer/repairer must have had an approval of internal control (level 2 according to the UIC codes 435 or the technical regulations of EPAL) for at least 2 years and external supervisions may not have led to any serious complaints during that period.
The number of UIC pallets repaired per month should have been at least 4,000 pieces during the last 12 months prior to the application.
 - 6.4.2.2. The manufacturer must use automatic machines or special devices for the manufacture of the products which ensure regular, made-to-measure and made-to-standard manufacture of the products.
The repairer must use appropriate devices for the repair of the products which ensure made-to-standard repair of the products.
 - 6.4.3. The aptitude of the manufacturer/repairer for applying the quality assurance system is to be verified by the certifying body (EN 45011) acknowledged by EPAL and is to be evaluated only after training and testing of the representatives.

- 6.4.4. Approval of the application of the quality assurance system will be granted in the form of a certificate (Appendix 8) concluded between EPAL and the manufacturer/repairer. The documentation has to be enclosed with the certificate.
- 6.4.5. Approval of the application of the quality assurance system only applies to the works and the production facilities described in the documentation. It does not apply to affiliated works or the employment of other production facilities and methods.
- 6.4.6. The manufacturer/repairer undertakes to enable access of the representatives of EPAL to the works and the manufacturing site. They have the right to study the inspection records, the buying and selling papers (delivery papers), and to carry out controls and tests with which they evidence the proper function of the quality assurance system. The reports about the visit have to be sent to EPAL and the manufacturer/repairer.
- 6.4.7. The manufacturer/repairer undertakes to inform the inspection company and EPAL in writing on the 5th of each month as to the number of UIC pallets, collars and lids produced/repaired during the previous month by means of monthly report (Appendices 9 to 12) and to deliver copies of the inspection results recorded in the course of the manufacturer's/repairer's internal control.
- 6.5. External supervision of the manufacturer's internal control and quality assurance system (levels 2 and 3)
- 6.5.1. The inspection of the manufacturer's internal control by the inspection company takes place at least once a month without prior notice. If the result is negative, the manufacturer will have to bear the costs of the additional inspection.
- 6.5.1.1. If the inspections of manufacturers having an approval as described in Item 6.4. do not give cause for serious complaints over a period of 12 months, the inspection intervals can be extended to at least once every three months.
- 6.5.2. Inspections comprise:
- 6.5.2.1. Inspection of the material and the technical production facilities
- 6.5.2.2. 100 % visual inspection of the stock of quality assured products available at the time of the inspection visit
- 6.5.2.3. Inspection of a random sample on the basis of the applicable random sample plans and the daily production.
- 6.5.2.4. Evaluation and comparison of the results of the regular internal control in comparison to the inspection made.
- 6.5.3. An inspection report has to be created for each inspection.

6.5.4. If negative results are obtained in the inspections described in Item 6.5.2.3., the following immediate measures have to be taken in the presence of the inspector:

6.5.4.1. the rejected lot may not be put into circulation,

6.5.4.2. faulty pallets can be sorted out and reworked,

6.5.4.3. the markings must be removed from pallets that cannot be reworked.


6.5.5. In the course of the new inspection at the manufacturer's cost the pallets sorted out in accordance with Item 6.5.4.3. must be submitted again.

6.5.6. The inspection company immediately informs EPAL as to the faults which have led to rejection of the lot and to the instructions already given.


6.5.7. EPAL decides immediately on the following measures depending on the severity of the violation independent of the statutory measures:

6.5.7.1. additional inspection at the manufacturer's cost,

6.5.7.2. withdrawal of the approval of the quality assurance system and internal control,

6.5.7.3. measures in compliance with the regulations for granting and using the mark .

6.6. Inspection of the traders

6.6.1. The approval for trading with quality assured products applies to the acquisition of pallets, collars and lids produced in compliance with the prescriptive standards but outside the territories of EPAL, and the marking of these products with the  quality mark.

6.6.2. All non-quality assured pallets, collars and lids acquired by the approved trader have to be delivered to a location agreed upon with EPAL and submitted for inspection to the inspection company.

6.6.3. The acquired pallets, collars and lids must comply with the relevant standards in line with Item 4.


6.6.4. The pallets, collars and lids are subjected to a random sample inspection by the inspection company. The terms and conditions of Item 6.2. apply mutatis mutandis.

6.7. Supervision of repair


6.7.1. Internal supervision

6.7.1.1 The internal control of the approved repairer includes:

6.7.1.1.1. permanent control of the repair parts,

- 6.7.1.1.2. continual supervision of the technical production facilities,
- 6.7.1.1.3. permanent control of production,
- 6.7.1.1.4. supervision of marking with  repair marking nails resp. seals (Item 6.3.5.4. applies mutatis mutandis).

6.7.2. External supervision

- 6.7.2.1. The inspection company inspects the approved repairers at least once in a month and without prior notice.
- 6.7.2.2. The inspection includes:
 - 6.7.2.2.1. control of the repair parts and the technical production facilities,
 - 6.7.2.2.2. inspection of proper repair,
 - 6.7.2.2.3. visual evaluation of the stock of repaired exchange pallets available at the time of the inspection visit as well as inspection of marking of the repaired pallets.
- 6.7.3. The repairer undertakes to inform the inspection company and EPAL in writing on the 5th of each month about the number of repaired UIC pallets, exchange collars and exchange lids in the form of monthly reports (Appendix 13) and to submit copies of the inspection results recorded in the course of internal control.
- 6.7.4. If any faults, violations or deviations in the repair are noted during the inspection, the following immediate measures are to be taken in the presence of the inspector:
 - 6.7.4.1. faulty pallets must be sorted out and reworked,
 - 6.7.4.2. the markings must be removed from pallets which cannot be reworked,
 - 6.7.4.3. in the course of a new inspection at the repairer's cost, the pallets sorted out as per Item 6.7.4.2. must also be submitted.
- 6.7.5. The inspection company informs EPAL about the faults discovered and the instructions already given.
- 6.7.6. EPAL decides immediately on the following measures depending on the degree of the violation and independent of the statutory measures:
 - 6.7.6.1. additional inspection at the repairer's cost,
 - 6.7.6.2. measures in compliance with the regulations for granting and using the mark .

6.8 Supervision of the production of box pallet components

6.8.1. Internal supervision

6.8.1.1 The internal control by the company authorised for the manufacture of box pallet components comprises:

6.8.1.1.1. continual control of the preliminary material,

6.8.1.1.2. continual supervision of the technical production facilities,

6.8.1.1.3. permanent control of production,

6.8.1.1.4 supervision of marking with the quality seal.

6.8.2. External supervision

6.8.2.1 The company authorised for the manufacture of box pallet components is subject to periodic and unannounced inspections by the inspection company.

6.8.2.2. The inspection includes:

6.8.2.2.1. Inspection of the material and the technical production facilities

6.8.2.2.2. Supervision of proper production

6.8.2.2.3. Sample inspections of the stock of box pallet components present at the time the inspection visit including inspection of the marking using the quality seal.

6.8.3. The manufacturer undertakes to inform the inspection company and EPAL in writing on the 5th of each month about the number of the UIC box pallets components produced during the previous month by means of monthly reports (Appendix 12) and deliver copies of the inspection results recorded in the course of the manufacturer's internal control.

....., the

To
European Pallet Association e.V.
General Secretariat
Hermelinweg 14
D-48157 Münster

Re: Approval of manufacturing *)
of trading *)
of repairing *)
- EUR flat pallets *)
- EUR box pallets *)
- Collars *)
- Lids *)
- Box pallets components *)

The undersigned/undersigning company herewith applies for approval of the above, conferral and the use of the mark



and confirms that

- the Statutes of the European Pallet Association e.V. and
- the Technical Regulations of EPAL plus appendices 1 to 13 and annexes A, B and C
have been noted and are herewith acknowledged without reservation to be binding on themselves.

Yes No

Are you a member of a national committee of EPAL?

..... the

.....
signature / company stamp

*) please tick as applicable

European Pallet Association e.V.
General Secretariat
Hermelinweg 14
D-48157 Münster

Münster,

To

Re: Approval of manufacturing *)
of trading *)
of repairing *)
- EUR flat pallets *)
- EUR box pallets *)
- Collars *)
- Lids *)
- Box pallets components *)

The board of EPAL has granted your company the above approval.

Only for production and repair:

The branding plates or templates required for marking the pallets can be obtained from

Only for production:

The quality assured products are to be marked with the manufacturer's code

assigned to you at the position indicated in the standards.

EPAL
General Secretariat

Enclosure:
Certificate

*) please tick as applicable

CERTIFICATE

Based on the regulations for marking quality assured products and the terms of the Technical Regulations and having verified that the requirements are fulfilled the European Pallet Association e.V. herewith confers upon the company

.....

the marks



The conferral of the right to use the quality mark entails the obligation to ensure that the statutes, the quality mark statutes and the regulations for granting and using the marks



are adhered to.

The marks are granted

- for a period of
- for an unlimited period of time unless revoked within a period of months.


EPAL
General Secretariat

Münster,

Random sample plans

For	applies
EUR flat pallets	Appendix 8 with inspection report of the UIC code 435-2
Collars	Appendix 5 of the UIC Code 435-3 with inspection report page 2
Lids	Appendix 5 of the UIC Code 435-3 with inspection report page 3
EUR box pallets	Appendix 5 with inspection report of the UIC code 435-3

Inspection report for exchange collar


 02 Inspection report for exchange collar/removable collar Checklist of defects	Code No.:			Import:		
	Batch N:			Sample n:		
	Marking:			Importer:		
	Company:					
Size of batch N	1-90	91-150	151-280	281-500	501-1200	1201-3200
Sample n	3	8	13	20	32	50
Critical defects	0	0	0	0	0	0
Major defects	3	5	7	10	14	21
Minor defects	7	10	14	21	30	44
CRITICAL DEFECTS						
Description of defects	Defects upper / lower		Number of critical defects			Σ
Stacking width	814 +7 / -10					
Stacking length	1214 +7 /-10					
Total sum of critical defects						
Major defects / Minor defects	Characteristics of defects		Number of			
Description of the defects	Major defects Upper/lower	Minor defects Upper/lower	Major defects	Minor defects	Σ	Σ
Stacking width	814 +5/-4	814 +2/-0				
Stacking length	1214+5/-4	1214+2/-0				
Stacking height	400+6/-4	400+2/-0				
Top boards, width (hard woods)	80+10/-5	80+2/-0				
Other boards, width (soft woods) 80-160mm	+/-5	+2/-0				
Thickness of board	22+1/-2	22+0/-1				
Gluing insufficient (visual)	X					
Handle hole - length	120+10/-4					
Handle hole - width	30+/-4					
Handle hole (rough edges)	X					
Chamfering collar edges		2+1/-0x45°				
Corner bracket, thickness	3+/-0.4					
Corner bracket, length	440+/-5	440+/-2				
Welding continuous or points		X				
Surface protection	(1) (2)					
Milling of upper edge	7+/-1					
Screw length	23+/-0.75	23+0/-0.50				
Screws not tightened	X					
Protruding nuts	X					
Incomplete marking	X					
Beech nitrided (grey)	X					
Infestation, decay	X					
Resin pockets		≥ 50mm				
Not adhering knots - non-acceptable	≥ 30mm					
Single knots	≥ 50mm					
Sum for knot clusters	Sum ≥ width					
Strong stain / blue stain		X				
Shakes		X				
(1) Epoxy resin min. 25 µm (2) Painting min. 80µm	Total sum of defects					
Pieces of staples - Inventory:	Inspection positive		YES	NO		
Pieces of staples - given:						

Remarks: _____

Place:
Inspector:

Date:
Company:

Inspection report for exchange lids

 03 Inspection report for exchange lids - exchange boards Checklist of defects	Code No.:			Import:		
	Batch N:			Sample n:		
	Marking:			Importer:		
	Company:					
Size of batch N	1-90	91-150	151-280	281-500	501-1200	1201-3200
Sample n	3	8	13	20	32	50
Critical defects	0	0	0	0	0	0
Major defects	3	5	7	10	14	21
Minor defects	7	10	14	21	30	44
Critical defects						
Description of defects	Defects upper / lower		Number of critical defects			Σ
Stringer board, length	748+/-7					
Distance stringer board	1152+/-4					
Total						
Major / Minor defects	Characteristics of defects		Number of			
Description of defects	Major defects	Minor defects	Major defects	Minor defects	Σ	Σ
	Upper/lower	Upper/lower				
Dimension, Width	790 +6/-4	790 +2/-0				
Dimension, Length	1190+6/-4	1190+2/-0				
Stringer board - Length	748+/-4	748+1/-0				
Distance stringer board	1152+3/-1					
Width of board + (Stringer board) SBB	98.5+5/-3	98.5+0.5/-0				
Width of board + (Stringer board) ÖBB	131.5+5/-3	131.5+0.5/-0				
Thickness of board + (Stringer board)	18+1/-1					
Distance stringer board / outer edge - Length	19+4/-2	19+2/-1				
Width of board + (Stringer board) - Width	21+4/-2	21+2/-1				
Nail pattern not conform	X					
Protruding nails	X					
Nail length	45+5/-0					
Deck board - edges		20+2/-0x45°				
Chambering of edges (broken)		X				
Incomplete marking	X					
Infestation, decay	X					
Resin pockests		≥ 50mm				
Not adhering knots / non-acceptable	≥ 30mm					
Single knots	≥ 50mm					
Sum of knot clusters	Sum \Rightarrow Width					
Shakes						
Strong stain / blue stain						
Total defects						
Pieces of staples - Inventory:	Inspection positive		YES	NO		
Pieces of staples - given:						

Remarks: _____

Place:
Inspector:

Date:
Company:

..... the

To
European Pallet Association e.V.
General Secretariat
Hermelinweg 14
D-48157 Münster

Re: Application for granting the right of internal control

The undersigned/undersigning company herewith applies for the right to internal control for

- EUR flat pallets *)
- EUR box pallets *)
- Collars *)
- Lids *)

and confirms that the Technical Regulations, especially Items 6.3. to 6.5., have been noted and are herewith acknowledged as binding on themselves without reservation.

The undersigned/undersigning company herewith transfers to his/her employee the obligations undertaken in compliance with the Technical Regulations. Deputizing or replacing of the responsible employee will be immediately notified to EPAL.

The inspectors of the inspection company and the bodies of EPAL will be given access to the production plants and the production site at any time.

The company undertakes to use the quality marks only for products made in their own production plants which have been subjected to quality inspections and which comply with the applicable regulations.

..... the

.....
signature and company stamp

*) please tick as applicable

European Pallet Association e.V.
General Secretariat
Hermelinweg 14
D-48157 Münster

Münster,

To

Re: Granting the right of internal control

The board of the EPAL herewith grants your company the right of internal control of the

- EUR flat pallets *)
- EUR box pallets *)
- Collars *)
- Lids *)

produced in your plant.

In the course of internal control the company is granted the right to inspect the production of their quality assured products in compliance with the rules of the Technical Regulations and to apply the quality marks to the quality assured products manufactured in their production plants.

The required quality staples and quality seals can be obtained from

EPAL
General Secretariat

*) Please tick as applicable

..... the

To
European Pallet Association e.V.
General Secretariat
Hermelinweg 14
D-48157 Münster

Re: Application for approval of applying the quality assurance system according to
ISO 9000

The undersigned/undersigning company herewith applies for approval of the application of the quality assurance system for

- EUR flat pallets *)
- EUR box pallets *)
- Collars *)
- Lids *)

and confirms that the Technical Regulations, in particular Items 6.4. to 6.6., have been noted and are herewith recognized as binding on themselves without reservation.

The undersigned/undersigning company herewith transfers to its employee the obligations undertaken in compliance with the Technical Regulations. Deputizing or replacing of the responsible employee will be immediately notified to EPAL to enable the training of these employees.

The inspectors of the inspection company and the body of EPAL will be given access to the production plants and to the production site at any time.

The company undertakes to use the quality marks only for products manufactured/repared in their own works which have been inspected in regard to quality and comply with the valid terms and conditions.

..... the

.....
signature and company stamp

*) please tick as applicable

Certificate of commitment

concluded between

- EPAL
- Manufacturer/Repairer

for approval of applying for the quality assurance system of ISO 9000 when manufacturing/repairing

.....

1.

The terms and conditions of Item 4 of the Technical Regulations of EPAL shall apply for manufacturing/repairing quality assured products.

2.

The requirements of Item 6.4. of the Technical Regulations of EPAL shall apply for the application of the quality assurance system. The documentation has to be enclosed with the manufacturer's/repairer's commitment and will be part of the obligation.

3.

The term of this certificate will be for a period of 3 years. After inspection of the system and updating of the documentation and the production papers the term of this approval may be extended for another 3 years.

The parties hereto can cancel this certificate at 3 months' notice.

EPAL

Manufacturer/Repairer

Documentation

1. Subject: Quality assurance system according to ISO 9000
2. Company:
3. Responsible employee:
4. Description of the production facilities:
5. Description of the measuring equipment (with tolerances):
measuring and testing instruments, gauges
6. Material (records)
 - procurement,
 - in-coming goods control,
 - . quality control,
 - . control of dimensions,
 - when changing the material, certain tests have to be made,
e.g. withdrawal and bending tests of nails.
7. Sequence of production (checked once a day, records)
 - checking of adjustments,
 - intermediate quality control (sorting out),
 - checking of distance equipment and stops,
 - checking e.g. of nail pattern and nails,
 - marking: checking of wear, force, parallelism, temperature, code number,
 - final inspection: Visual inspection must be possible from all sides ^ rejection,
 - quality marks: checking of staple machine, quality marks on stock
(their receipt and use must be recorded).
8. Checking of quality assurance by the responsible employee:
The daily production, at least lots of 1000 flat pallets resp. 200 box pallets, collars or lids, have to be tested according to the random sample plan. Inspection reports have to be created and the implementation has to be entered in the inspection records. In case of negative results the production has to be stopped immediately and the sources of the faults are to be removed. The markings must be made unrecognizable on products which do not correspond to the standards with black, permanent and waterproof colour, and the quality marks must be removed.
9. The records according to Items 6, 7 and 8 must be kept separately and for a period of 3 years.



**MONTHLY REPORT
MANUFACTURE OF EUR FLAT PALLETS
(MANUFACTURER OF LEVEL 2 and 3)**

Manufacturer: Code-No:.....

 Month:

Number of EUR flat pallets manufactured this month	
--	--

Number of EUR flat pallets corresponding to the standard	
--	--

Number of pallets eliminated	
------------------------------	--

The manufacturer represented by the employee who is responsible for internal control
 herewith confirms that

- the EUR flat pallets manufactured in the indicated month have been tested in accordance with the Technical Regulations of EPAL and have been marked with the quality staple.
- the non-conforming pallets have been destroyed or their marking has been made unrecognizable with black colour.

Date:.....

.....
 stamp of the company
 signature of the responsible

quality staples

old stock	
coming in +	
going out -	
new stock	

R

**MONTHLY REPORT
MANUFACTURE OF COLLARS
(MANUFACTURER OF LEVEL 2 and 3)**

Manufacturer: Code-No:.....

 Month:

Number of collars manufactured this month	<input type="text"/>
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Number of collars corresponding to the standard	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------

Number of collars eliminated	<input type="text"/>
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The manufacturer represented by the employee who is responsible for internal control
 herewith confirms that

- the collars manufactured in the indicated month have been tested in accordance with the Technical Regulations of EPAL and have been marked with the quality staple.
- the non-conforming collars have been destroyed or their marking has been made unrecognizable with black colour.

Date:.....

.....
 stamp of the company
 signature of the responsible

quality staples

old stock	<input type="text"/>
coming in +	<input type="text"/>
going out -	<input type="text"/>
new stock	<input type="text"/>



**MONTHLY REPORT
MANUFACTURE OF LIDS
(MANUFACTURER OF LEVEL 2 and 3)**

Manufacturer: Code-No:.....
.....
..... Month:

Number of lids manufactured this month	
--	--

Number of lids corresponding to the standard	
--	--

Number of lids eliminated	
---------------------------	--

The manufacturer represented by the employee who is responsible for internal control
..... herewith confirms that

- the lids manufactured in the indicated month have been tested in accordance with the Technical Regulations of EPAL and have been marked with the quality staple.
- the non-conforming lids have been destroyed or their marking has been made unrecognizable with black colour.

Date:.....

.....
stamp of the company
signature of the responsible

quality staples

old stock	
coming in	+
going out	-
new stock	

Y

**MONTHLY REPORT
MANUFACTURE OF EUR BOX PALLETS
(MANUFACTURER OF LEVEL 2 AND 3)**

Manufacturer: Code-No:.....

 Month:

Number of EUR box pallets manufactured this month	
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Number of EUR box pallets corresponding to the standard	
---	--

Number of EUR box pallets eliminated	
--------------------------------------	--

The manufacturer represented by the employee who is responsible for internal control
 herewith confirms that

- the EUR box pallets manufactured in the indicated month have been tested in accordance with the Technical Regulations of EPAL and have been marked with the quality seal.
- the non-conforming EUR box pallets have been destroyed or their marking has been made unrecognizable with black colour.

Date:.....

.....
 stamp of the company
 signature of the responsible

quality seals

old stock	
coming in +	
going out -	
new stock	



RP

**MONTHLY REPORT
REPAIR OF EUR FLAT PALLETS**

Repairer: Code-No:.....

 Month:

Number of incoming of EUR flat pallets in this month	
--	--

Number of EUR flat pallets repaired	
-------------------------------------	--

Number of pallets eliminated	
------------------------------	--

The repairer represented by the employee who is responsible for internal control
 herewith confirms that

- the EUR flat pallets repaired in the indicated month have been repaired in accordance with the EPAL regulations for the repair of EUR pallets and each of them has been marked with the repair marking nail.
- the non-conforming flat pallets have been destroyed or their markings have been made unrecognizable with black colour.

Date:.....

.....
 stamp of the company
 signature of the responsible

repair marking nails

old stock	
coming in	+
going out	-
new stock	



RR

**MONTHLY REPORT
REPAIR OF COLLARS**

Repairer: Code-No:.....

 Month:

Number of incoming of collars in this month	
---	--

Number of collars repaired	
----------------------------	--

Number of collars eliminated	
------------------------------	--

The repairer represented by the employee who is responsible for internal control
 herewith confirms that

- the collars repaired in the indicated month have been repaired in accordance with the EPAL regulations for the repair of collars and each of them has been marked with the repair marking nail.
- the non-conforming collars have been destroyed or their markings have been made unrecognizable with black colour.

Date:.....

.....
 stamp of the company
 signature of the responsible

repair marking nails

old stock	
coming in +	
going out -	
new stock	



RR

**MONTHLY REPORT
REPAIR OF LIDS**

Repairer: Code-No:.....

 Month:

Number of incoming of lids in this month	
--	--

Number of lids repaired	
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Number of lids eliminated	
---------------------------	--

The repairer represented by the employee who is responsible for internal control
 herewith confirms that

- the lids repaired in the indicated month have been repaired in accordance with the EPAL regulations for the repair of lids and each of them has been marked with the repair marking nail.
- the non-conforming lids have been destroyed or their markings have been made unrecognizable with black colour.

Date:.....

.....
 stamp of the company
 signature of the responsible

repair marking nails

old stock	
coming in +	
going out -	
new stock	



RY

**MONTHLY REPORT
REPAIR OF EUR BOX PALLETS**

Repairer: Code-No:.....
.....
.....

Month:

Number of incoming of EUR box pallets in this month

Number of EUR box pallets repaired

Number of EUR box pallets eliminated

The repairer represented by the employee who is responsible for internal control
..... herewith confirms that

- the EUR box pallets repaired in the indicated month have been repaired in accordance with the EPAL regulations for the repair of EUR box pallets and each of them has been marked with the repair seal.
- the non-conforming EUR box pallets have been destroyed or their markings have been made unrecognizable with black colour.

Date:.....

.....
stamp of the company
signature of the responsible

Repair seals

old stock	
coming in +	
going out -	
new stock	

**Regulations
for the
repair of **EUR** flat pallets, **EUR** box pallets,
collars and lids**

1. APPLICATION

These regulations are valid for the repair of **EUR** flat pallets and **EUR** box pallets which have been manufactured in accordance with the standard of UIC 435-2 resp. 435-3 as well as collars and lids.

2. REFERENCES

The basis of these regulations are the latest issues of the following standards and regulations:

- Technical Regulation concerning manufacture, trade and repair of quality assured products and inspection requirement of EPAL as well as the Performance criteria for uniform inspection
- UIC Code 435-2 “ Standard of quality for a European flat pallet made of wood with four openings and measuring 800 mm x 1200 mm - European exchange pallet”
- UIC Code 435-3 “ Standard of quality for a European box pallet made of steel with four openings and measuring 800 mm x 1200 mm - European exchange box pallet”
- ‚Pallet pool collars‘ standard in accordance with ÖBB/SBB agreement
- ‚Pallet pool lids‘ standard in accordance with ÖBB/SBB agreement
- UIC Code 435-4 “Repair of EUR flat pallets and EUR box-pallets Y”
- List of nails and chipboard blocks approved by EPAL.

3. FIELD OF REPAIR

Repairers may only repair **EUR** flat pallets, **EUR** box pallets, collars and lids or manufacture spare parts with the marking **EUR** or with the mark of the railway for the repair of flat pallets, box pallets, collars and lids if they are approved by EPAL.

The approval of repair of **EUR** flat pallets, **EUR** box pallets, collars and lids is always given to the repair shops.

This is also valid for repair shops “permanently installed at the client” and for “mobile plants”. The repairer has to guarantee and ensure that the inspection company can visit the repair places without prior notice.

4. EXECUTION

4.1. **EUR** flat pallets

EUR flat pallets which have damages or faults as described in Appendix A, Annex 1/P cannot be exchanged. They must be eliminated or repaired.

Pallets which do not comply with the UIC Code 435-2 and irreparable **EUR** flat pallets must be sorted out. These pallets must be

- eliminated (e.g. by cutting the stringerboards or by splitting) or
- made unrecognizable by painting the markings with black colour.

Reparable **EUR** flat pallets are to be renewed so that they can be exchanged. The regulations of the UIC Codes 435-2 and 435-4 must be observed. Damaged or missing parts or parts which do not correspond to the standard must be replaced by new or recycled parts of adequate quality.

Repair marking nails marking a previous repair must be removed.

Nails and wood chipboard blocks used for the repair must be approved by EPAL. The nail pattern must correspond to the UIC Code 435-2.

4.2. **EUR** box pallets

EUR box pallets showing damages or defects according to Enclosure 1/Y, are not exchangeable. They need to be either removed or repaired.

This also applies to newly produced **EUR** box pallets that do not fulfil the criteria of the UIC 435-3 acceptance report.

Box pallets not corresponding to the UIC 435-3 acceptance report and irreparable **EUR** box pallets are to be sorted out. Such box pallets are either to be

- disposed of (old iron)
- or the identification plate removed, and the whole box pallet sprayed with or dipped in a paint (any colour except grey)

In the case of all newly produced and all repaired **EUR** box pallets of EPAL, all prescribed symbol texts except for the Y number must be embossed on the identification plate. Alternatively, the inscription plate can be riveted.

The pictogram with all newly produced and repaired **EUR** box pallets must be waterproof and self-adhesive.

Reparable **EUR** box pallets are to be renewed so that they can be exchanged. Damaged or missing parts or parts which do not correspond to the standard must be replaced by new of adequate quality or recycled parts. Deformed parts may be straightened, missing lattice bars welded in. Repaired and rusted parts are to be derusted and coated according to UIC Code 435-3. If there is considerable rust damage on the box pallet or if only half of the old paint coat is present, the box pallet must be given a new coat of paint. Bottom boards may also be painted.

Repair seals marking a previous repair must be removed.

4.3. Collars

Collars which have damages or faults as described in Appendix A, Annex 1/R cannot be exchanged. They must be eliminated or repaired. For the repair only elements in accordance with the „exchange collars“ standard must be used.

Missing or damaged corner brackets must be replaced. In the case of damaged wall panels, the corner brackets must be removed and the panels sawn along the inner edge and replaced by non-galvanised new wall panels. The non-galvanised corners must be connected using at least three screw nails 4.5 x 70 or 3 annular ring nails 4.2 x 70 and using the corner brackets. Splintering from the upper and lower edges of the frame of a maximum height of 50 mm may be repaired. To this purpose, the edges must be cut out at a right angle and appropriate pieces of wood glued in.

Repair marking nails marking a previous repair must be removed.

4.4. Lids

Collars which have damages or faults as described in Appendix A, Annex 1/D cannot be exchanged. They must be eliminated or repaired.

For the repair only elements in accordance with the „exchange lids“ standard must be used.

Damaged or missing boards must be replaced. Account must be taken of the prescribed chamfering and corner edges.


Repair marking nails marking a previous repair must be removed.

5. MARKING

5.1. Substantial markings


5.1.1. flat pallets

Changed outer blocks must bear the following markings (see Appendix A, Annex 2):

- left blocks: the sign of the railway according to conferral certificate completed with a point,
- right blocks: the mark  completed with a point.

Missing or illegible markings must be renewed.

Middle blocks to be replaced are replaced by blocks without markings.

Existing markings on the blocks (marks of another EPP railway,  without point, markings on the central block) must not be renewed.

5.1.2. box pallets

The markings of EUR box pallets must comply with the UIC Code 435-3 and must be embossed with the exception of the Y numbers and the inscription plate (compare Appendix A, page 2, 4.2). The renewal of no longer existent or illegible EUR markings and rail company marks by stencil painting is not permitted.

In replacing the identification plate for EUR box pallets strict attention must be paid to the former load bearing capacity of the EUR box pallets.

Only identification plates according to Attachments 2/YA und 2/YB may be used, paying strict attention to the permissible load-bearing capacity. If the load-bearing capacity of the EUR box pallet to be repaired can no longer be identified with certainty, the identification plate according to Attachment 2/YA (load capacity 900 kg) must be used. Adhesive foils may not be used.

Existing Y numbers shall be retained or restored. If the Y numbers cannot be identified, Y numbers must be used that have been made available by the EPAL general secretariat for this purpose. The renewed Y numbers are to be marked legibly in black, water resistant paint on the grey identification plate in accordance with the UIC Code 435-3.

5.1.3. Collars and lids

The markings required by the standard shall be renewed if necessary.

5.2. Repair marking

Each **EUR** flat pallet which has been repaired according to these regulations shall be marked on one central block on the long side, each collar on one end and each lid on the top of the Kennzeichnungsbrettes with the repair marking nail (Appendix A, Annex 3).

Each **EUR** box pallet repaired according to these provisions shall be marked with the repair seal (Appendix A, Annex 3) in the field for the quality seals on the identification plate.

The repair marking nail and/or the repair seal must be added as the last working cycle before the pallet leaves the repair workstation.

After its repair the **EUR** flat pallet, the collar and the lid shall bear only the repair marking nail resp. the **EUR** box pallet the seal of the repairer who last repaired the pallet, the collar or the lid.

6. Supervision, external supervision

The regulation of Item 6.7. of the Technical Regulations of EPAL is valid for the supervision, external supervision and treatment of violations. The inspection reports according to Appendix A, Annex 4/RP and Annex 4/RV must be used for supervision purposes.

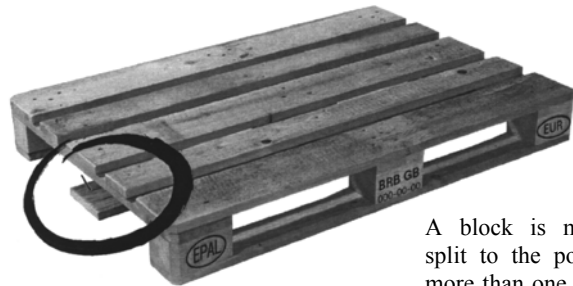
7. Reports

The repairer must deliver monthly reports (Appendix 13) not later than the 5th of the following month to the inspection company.

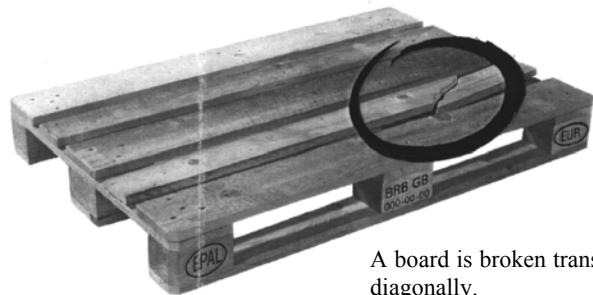
Damages or faults which make a **EUR** flat pallet inappropriate for exchange



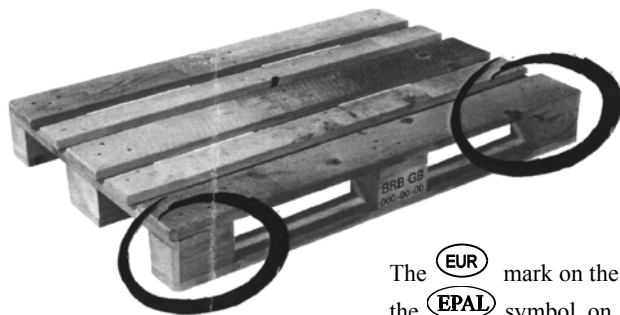
A single upper or lower edge board is damaged so that more than one nail or screw shank is revealed.



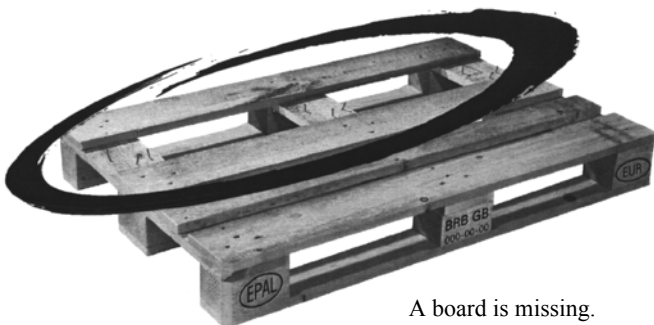
A block is missing or split to the point where more than one nail shank is visible.



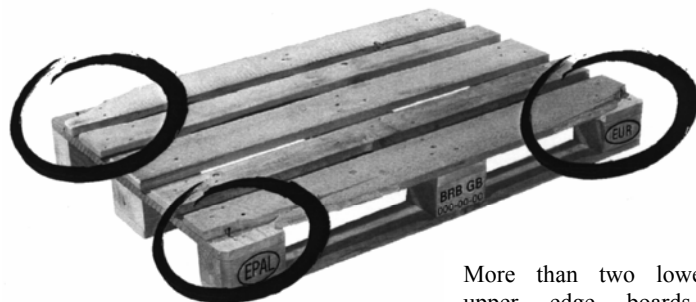
A board is broken transversely or diagonally.



The **EUR** mark on the right or the **EPAL** symbol on the left is missing.



A board is missing.

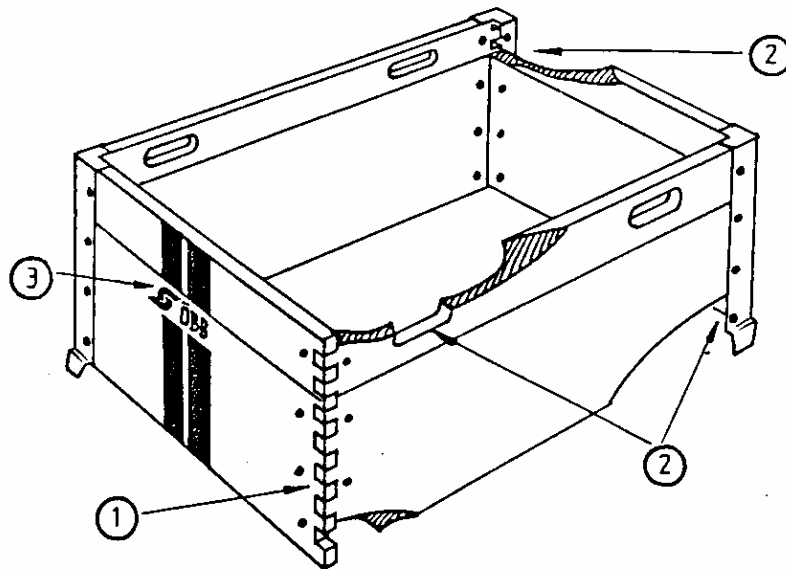


More than two lower or upper edge boards are damaged and reveal one nail or screw shank for each board.

**Other characteristics:
Poor condition overall**

- The loading capacity can no longer be guaranteed (wood worm-eaten or rotten).
- Contamination is such that products may be soiled.
- Large splinters are coming away from a number of blocks.
- There is evidence that inadmissible construction elements have been used, e.g. boards and blocks that are too weak.

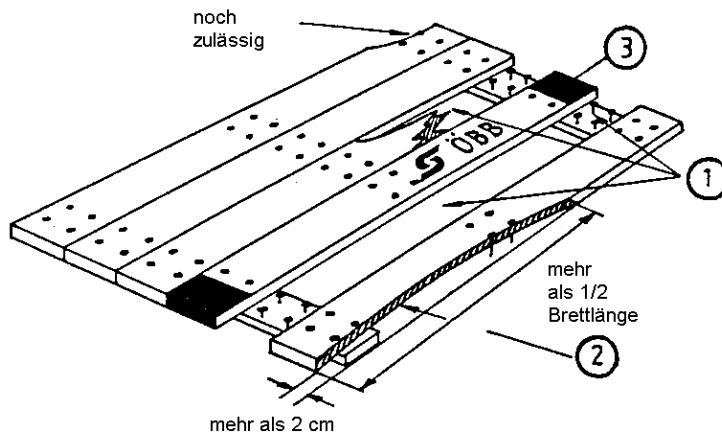
Damages or faults which make an exchange collar inappropriate for exchange



An exchange collar cannot be exchanged if

- (1) a corner bracket is missing
- (2) a wall panel is broken or splintered off in such a way that the screwing is visible or a handle hole has broken open
- (3) a minimum of one railway company marking is not present.

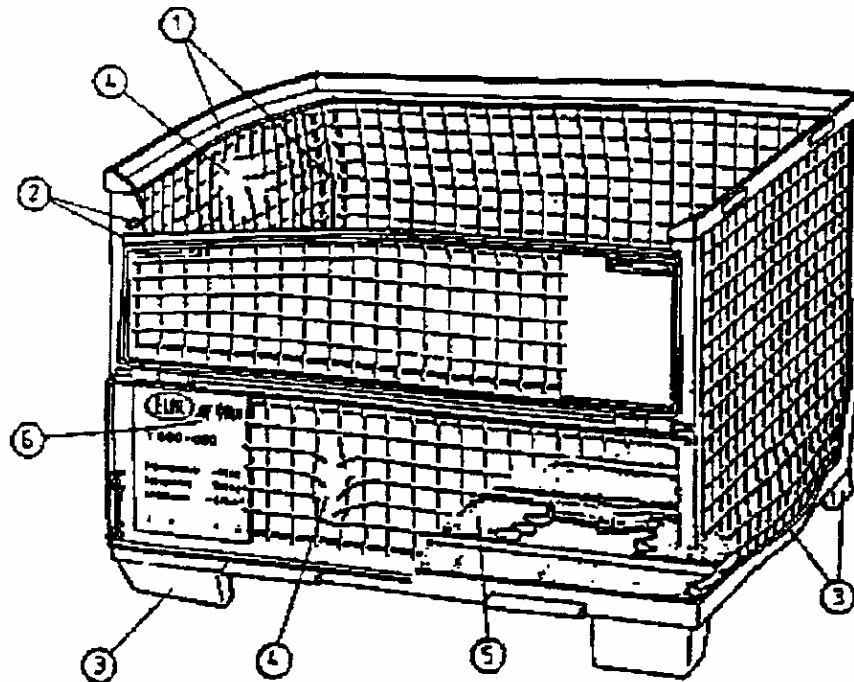
Damages or faults which make an exchange lid inappropriate for exchange



An exchange lid cannot be exchanged if

- (1) a top or stringer board is missing, broken or splintered off in such a way that the nailing is visible
- (2) the outer edge of an outer board has broken off over more than half of the length of the board and the missing part is in places broader than 20 mm
- (3) the railway company marking is missing or illegible.

Damages or faults which make a **EUR** box pallet inappropriate for exchange



An EUR box pallet cannot be exchanged if

- (1) the steep angle top piece or the corner posts are deformed
- (2) the hinged front panels cannot be moved or are deformed to such an extent that they can no longer be closed
- (3) the floor frame or the legs are bent to such an extent that the box pallet can no longer stand evenly on four legs or can no longer stacked without danger
- (4) that wire ends project inwards or outwards (one lattice bar per wall panel may be missing)
- (5) a board is missing or broken
- (6) the essential markings (EUR, railway mark, Y) are missing or illegible
- (7) its general condition is so poor as a result of rust or dirt that goods loaded could be soiled

Marking of the repair blocks and the repaired box pallets

EUR flat pallets

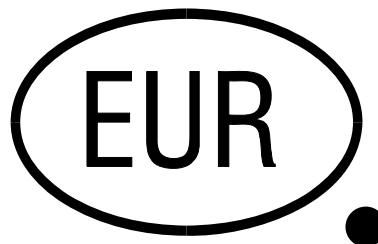
Mark of the railway or pallet organisation

AAA.

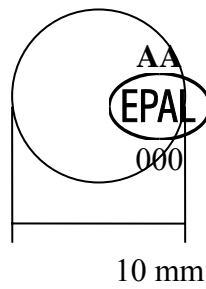
or



Mark EUR

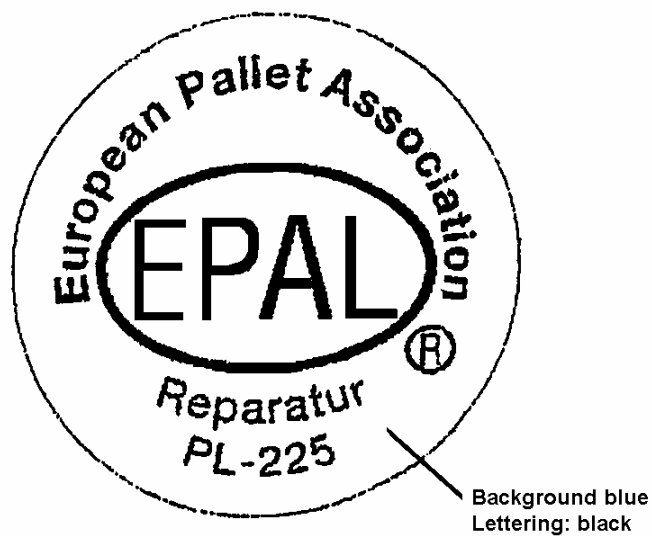


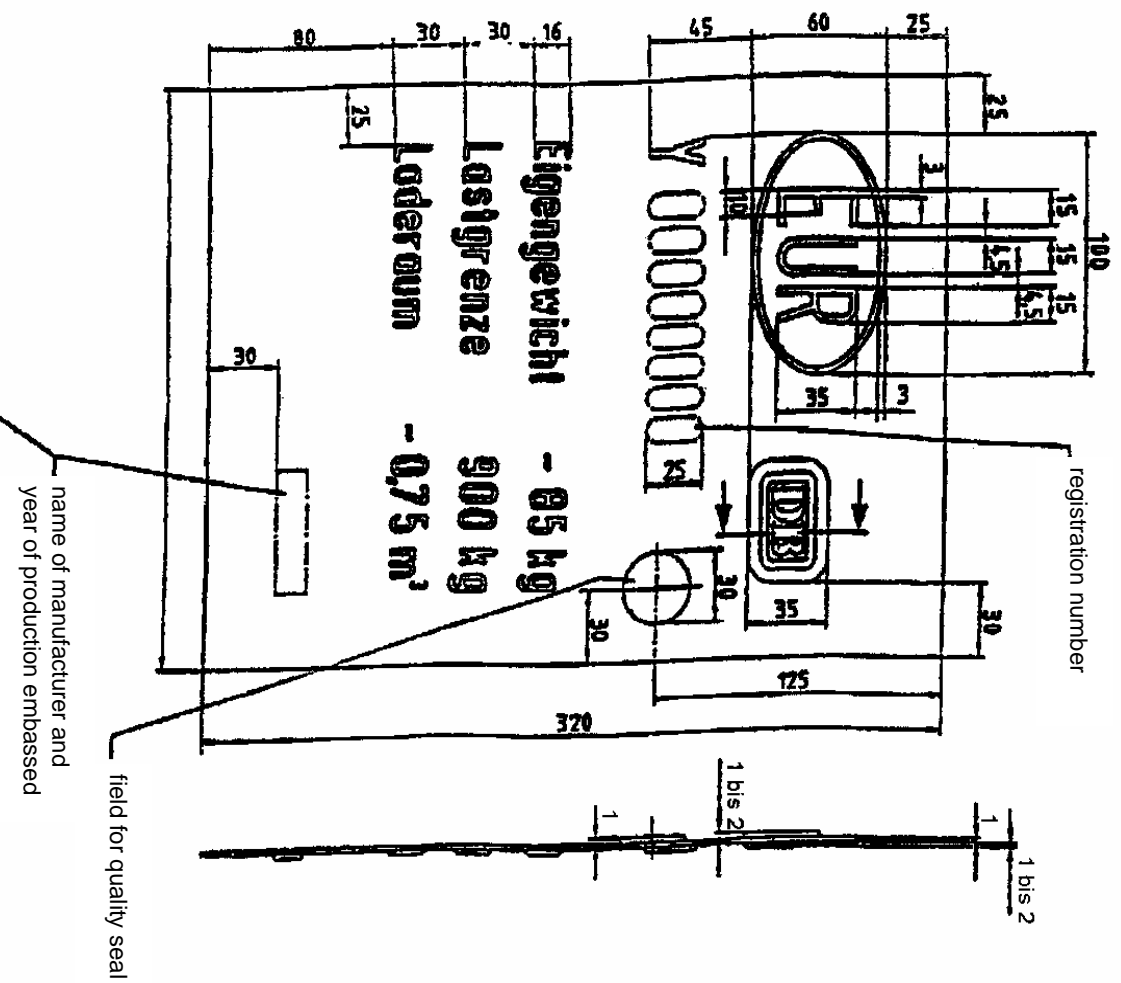
Repair marking nail



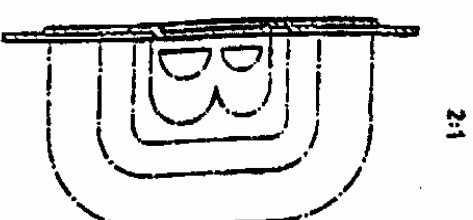
length: 25 mm
Galvanisation: 8 μ

Repair-Seal





font: bold close-spaced characters 6 BN 11009 (DIN 1451)

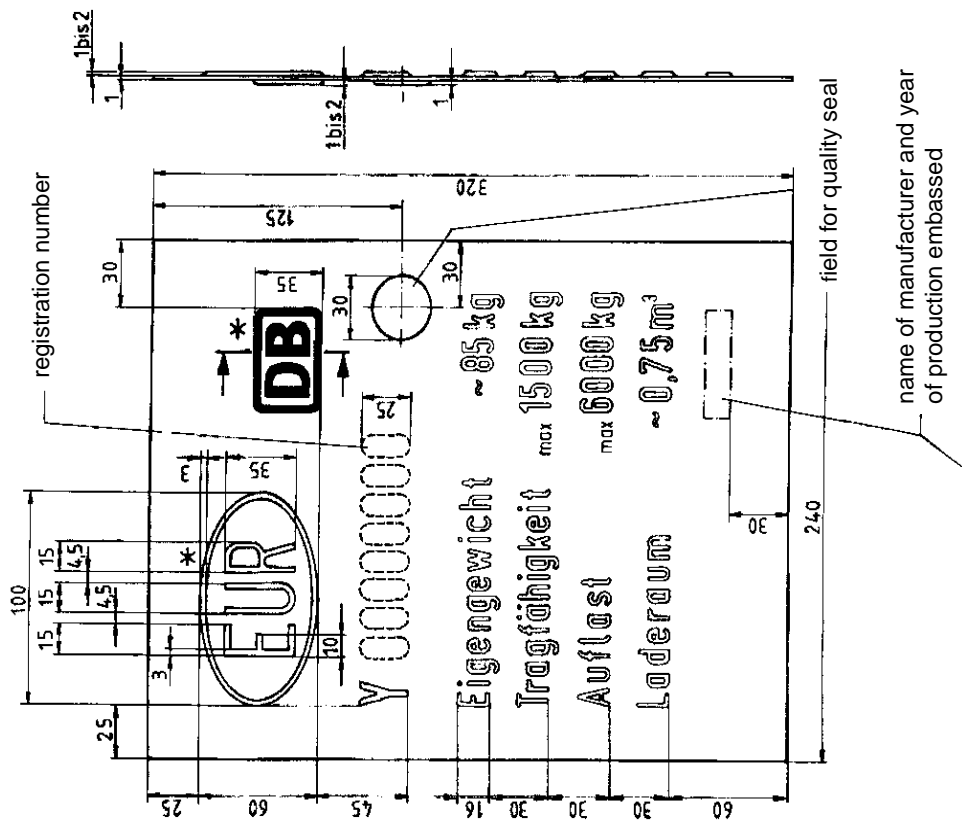


DB-Emblem: Projektion nach Urbild DC 6.1.014.4.79 für hellen Untergrund

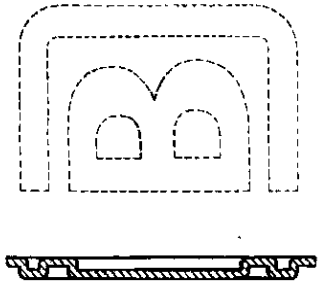
Schrift, EUR- und DB-Emblem geprägt.
Schriftart: Fette Engschrift 16 und 25 BN 11009 (DIN 1451)

Immatrikulations-Nr. schabloniert (Farbe reinweiß [RAL 9010]).
Die laufende Nummernfolge wird von EPAL festgelegt.

Identificatin plate, repair



2:1



DB-Emblem: Projektion nach Urbild DC 6.1.014.4.79 für hellen Untergrund

Schrift, EUR- und DB-Emblem geprägt.
Schriftart: Fette Engelschrift 16 und 25 BN 11009 (DIN 1451)

Immatrulations-Nr. schabloniert (Farbe schwarz [RAL 9005]).
Die laufende Nummernfolge wird von EPAL festgelegt.

*Anmerkung: Die widerrechtliche Verwendung oder Nachahmung des Zeichens kann rechtlich verfolgt werden, da diese Wortbildmarke als Warenzeichen gesetzlich geschützt ist und internationalen Markenschutz genießt.

font: bold close-spaced characters 6 BN 11009 (DIN 1451)



EUROPEAN PALLET ASSOCIATION

INSPECTION REPORT FOR REPAIRED EUR FLAT PALLETS					
COMPANY:					
CODE NO:					
BATCH:					
Batch N	1 - 90	91 - 150	151 - 280	281 - 500	501 - 1200
Sample n	13	20	32	50	80
nonexchangeable pallets	1	2	3	5	7
Number of nonexchangeable pallets of the sample: <input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>					
DECISION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Batch accepted		<input type="checkbox"/> Batch rejected		

INSPECTION OF QUALITY OF REPAIR

INSPECTION CRITERIA	+	-	INSPECTION CRITERIA	+	-
parts used			nails		
repair marking nail			nailing splits		
chamfering of edges			assembly		
nail pattern			removal of marking		
marking			internal control		

INSPECTION OF PARTS FOR REPAIR

PARTS	+	-	PARTS	+	-
Width of board 145 +5/-3			Length of board 1200 +3/-0		
Width of board 100 +/-3			Width of block 22 +2/-0		
Dimension of block 145 +5/-3			Knots		
Width of block 100 +/-3			Wane		
Height of block 78 +1/-0			Chamfer, bottom boards		
Length of board 800 +3/-0			Moisture content		

Remarks - significant faults:

Number of places where EUR pallets are repaired at the time of inspection

EPAL repair marking nails driven in as last step: yes/no

EPAL repair marking nails driven into every repaired pallet on stock: yes/no

Place:	Inspector	Company
...		
Date:
..



EUROPEAN PALLET ASSOCIATION

Inspection report for repaired box pallets

Company:.....	Consecutive order number.....
Street:.....	Test month:.....
Place:.....	Order date:.....
Contact person:	
Telefon:.....	Batch: <input type="text"/>
Code-No.:.....	Sample: <input type="text"/>

Batch N	1 - 90	91 - 150	151 - 280	281-500	501-1200
Sample n	13	20	32	50	80
Nonexchangeable pallets	1	2	3	5	7


Number of nonexchangeable pallets of the sample:


DECISION:

INSPECTION OF QUALITY OF REPAIR

INSPECTION CRITERIA	+	-	INSPECTION CRITERIA	+	-
Diagonal dimension, narrow side			Distortion of legs max. 10 mm		
Function of hinged panels			Insertion height over the entire floor area 100 +5/0		
Locking function			Dents in lattice max. 20 mm		
Standing stability			Welding execution		
Stacking capability			Bottom boards		
Board surround, riveted			Coat of paint		
Distortion of sections max. 5 mm			Pictograms		

Number of places where EUR pallets are repaired at the time of inspection

 repair seal is applied at the place of repair: yes/no

 repair seal is applied to all pallets on stock: yes/no

Remarks - significant faults:

.....

.....

Place:	Inspector	Companyr
Date:

Regulations for marking quality assured products


1. Quality requirements

The standards listed in the Technical Regulations under Item 4.1, 4.2., 4.4. and 4.5. apply to the manufacture of quality assured products.


2. Inspection requirements

The terms and conditions of the Technical Regulations apply to the quality control of quality assured products.

3. Marking

3.1. EPAL is the bearer of the quality mark  which is protected with the International office for intellectual property in Geneva under the number 617158 as of 16/3/1994 as a collective mark.

3.2. Quality assured products which comply with the requirements of the Technical Regulations of EPAL bear this quality mark.

3.3. The mark  is protected as trademark with the International office for intellectual property in Geneva under the number 430337 as of 11/5/1977.

3.4. The mark of the railways (possibly protected) is the abbreviation of those railways which are authorized to grant their mark in compliance with the regulations of the UIC.


3.5. The code number is assigned to the manufacturer or repairer together with the approval.

3.6. Quality assured  flat pallets carry the following markings:



3.6.1. on both long sides:

3.6.1.1. on the left corner block the mark of the railway *), burned in,

3.6.1.2. on the right corner block the mark , burned in,

3.6.1.3. on the central block the collective mark  *) the country code and the code number of the manufacturer along with month and year, burned in,

3.6.2. on one central block the quality staple bearing the mark .

*) instead of the mark of the railway the mark  can be used; in this case the centre block shall indicate the name of the railway which has given the licence instead of .

3.7. Quality assured exchange collars carry the following markings:

3.7.1. On the front wall two intermittent black lines, stencilled according to the ÖBB/SBB standard drawing, and the railway mark, the (EPAL) collective mark and the manufacturer's code number, together with year and the quality staple with the (EPAL) quality mark.

3.7.2. On the rear wall two black lines,

3.8. Quality assured exchange lids carry the following markings:

3.8.1. The ends and the front sides of the 5th longitudinal board shall be covered with black synthetic enamel paint according to ÖBB/SBB standard

3.8.2. On the top of the 5th longitudinal board:
the railway mark, the (EPAL) collective mark and the manufacturer's code number, together with year and the quality staple with the EPAL quality mark.

3.9. Quality assured (EUR) box pallets carry the following markings on the inscription plate:


the railway mark, the mark (EUR), the characteristic letter Y, the registration number, the (EPAL) collective mark and the manufacturer's code number, together with year and the quality seal with the EPAL quality mark.

3.10. EUR pallets, collars or lids which have been inspected in compliance with Item 6.6. of the Technical Regulations will get the quality staple esp. quality seal bearing the mark (EPAL) giving evidence of a successful quality inspection.

**Implementation regulations
for the award and use of the mark**



1. Requirements

The requirements for the collective mark  - hereinafter referred to as mark - are set forth in the regulations for marking quality assured products and in the Technical Regulations. In order to comply with the technical progress they will be supplemented and further developed.

2. Granting of the mark

2.1. The European Pallet Association e.V. - referred to in short as EPAL - is entitled to grant the mark as evidence of compliance with the regulations on the marking of quality assured products and with the Technical Regulations.

2.2. The board with the authority to adopt the measures for the preservation and protection of the mark and for its award and use in compliance with the implementation regulations upholds the rights in this mark.

2.3. Accordingly, the board awards on request the right of using the mark as evidence that the compliance with the regulations on the marking of quality assured products and the Technical Regulations is ensured by the users of the mark and is additionally monitored by EPAL in the course of inspections.

2.4. The application for the award of the mark has to be submitted to the General Secretariat of the
European Pallet Association e.V.
Hermelinweg 14
D-48157 Münster

An application for approval corresponding to Appendix 1 of the Technical Regulations is to be enclosed with this request.

2.5. The application and the prerequisites for the award of the mark are examined by a neutral inspection company. The inspection of the applicant's production plant is also carried out by the neutral inspection company. Any costs arising from this are borne by the applicant.

2.6. Depending on the results of the inspection the board awards the mark in the form of a certificate or informs the applicant about the reasons for the rejection. The approval procedure can be repeated on request.

3. Use of the mark

- 3.1. The right of using the quality mark is awarded to those entitled only for the products and services which comply with the regulations on the marking of quality assured products and the Technical Regulations.
- 3.2. Marking devices which are delivered by EPAL or on its behalf to the users of the mark remain the property of EPAL which is also entitled to determine the types of use more closely.

EPAL can also allow the marking devices to be bought by the users themselves, but on the condition that EPAL is regularly informed about their production and delivery (copy of the orders).
- 3.3. The board can make special decisions concerning the use of the mark for advertising and against misuse of the quality mark.
- 3.4. The users of the marks undertake to return all their marking devices and the certificate once the mark has been withdrawn. There is no right to claim compensation of costs.
- 3.5. Members of EPAL and the neutral inspection company are informed of the award and the withdrawal of the mark.

4. Monitoring

- 4.1. EPAL has the right and the duty to monitor the use of the mark and the compliance with the regulations for marking of quality assured products and the Technical Regulations.
- 4.2. Each user of the mark who has been awarded the mark must take the necessary pre-cautions in order to ensure that the products marked with the quality mark constantly comply with the regulations for marking of quality assured products and with the Technical Regulations. The products are subjected to the inspections of the inspection company. Any costs arising from that are borne by the user of the mark.
- 4.3. The inspection company can order or take samples of the products from the plant of the user of the mark at any time, take random samples and visit the plant during the working hours without prior notice. Requested samples are to be handed over instantly. Moreover, products can be withdrawn for inspection at the expense of user of the mark.
- 4.4. A new inspection can be carried out in the event of negative results or if deliveries give cause for complaints, also on request of the user of the mark.

- 4.5. Every inspection has to be recorded by the inspection company in the form of an inspection report. As for the rest, the inspection agreement made between EPAL and the neutral inspection company applies.
 - 4.6. In the event of complaints about rival products the costs of inspection are to be borne by the reporting person in case of unjustified complaints, if justified by the user of the mark who has offended against the regulations for marking of quality assured products and the Technical Regulations.
 - 4.7. EPAL, its bodies and members as well as the inspection company and its authorized representative are not liable for damages which arise from products of the user of the mark.
5. Punishment of violations
- 5.1. In case of violations against the regulations for marking of quality assured products, the Technical Regulations, the implementation regulations or the decisions of the bodies of EPAL, depending on the severity of the violation the board will be able to
 - 5.1.1. confirm a warning by the General Secretary or issue a warning itself and/or
 - 5.1.2. impose a fine of at least EUR 530.- up to a maximum of EUR 13.520.- in favour of EPAL and/or
 - 5.1.3. withdraw the right to use the quality mark up to a period of 3 months or permanently.
 - 5.2. The right to use the quality mark will be withdrawn for a limited period of time or permanently in case of severe or repeated violations.
 - 5.3. The board can also decide to take punishing measures if the user of the mark delays or hinders inspections.
 - 5.4. Before punishing measures are taken against the user of the mark he must be given the possibility to comment within a period of 4 weeks.
 - 5.5. In urgent cases the chairman of the board of EPAL or the EPAL board can withdraw the use of the mark immediately after hearing the user of the mark. Within a period of 4 weeks the chairman's withdrawal of the right to use the mark must be confirmed or cancelled by the board after the user of the mark has been given the possibility to comment within 2 weeks.
 - 5.6. The user of the mark may complain about the punishing measure of the board to the appeals committee within a period of 4 weeks after receipt of the notification. The complaint has no suspensive effect. The decision of the appeals committee is final.

- 5.7. The user of the label against whom punishing measures have been taken has to bear all the costs caused by his violation, in particular cash payments such as the costs for experts, inspections or travelling expenses.
- 5.8. A user of the mark from whom the right to use the mark has been temporarily withdrawn may apply again for being granted the quality mark after expiry of the deadline. The request can be made only after 6 months in case of a permanent withdrawal. Both requests are treated the same way as if being granted the mark for the first time. The board can issue additional conditions for the new award.

6. Protection of the mark

- 6.1. It is the duty of EPAL to take protective action against any disturbances and violations of the use of the mark and intervene in the event of misuse of the mark.
- 6.2. The users of the mark undertake to inform EPAL immediately about any violations of the regulations for marking of quality assured products and the Technical Regulations, particularly of these implementation regulations.