

Australian Standard™

**General-purpose flat pallets—  
Principal dimensions and tolerances  
(International pallet sizes)**

[ISO title: General-purpose flat pallets for through transit of goods—  
Principal dimensions and tolerances]

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee PK/3, Pallets. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 14 August 2000 and published on 11 September 2000.

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The following interests are represented on Committee PK/3:

Australian Railway Association  
Australian Industry Group  
Australian Paint Manufacturers Federation  
Australian Shipping Federation  
CSIRO Building, Construction and Engineering  
Department of Defence  
Institution of Engineers, Australia  
Telstra Corporation

Additional interests participating in the preparation of this Standard:

Commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Development

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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee PK/3, Pallets to provide a technical specification for the ISO size of pallets. It is identical with, and has been reproduced from ISO 6780:1988, *General-purpose flat pallets for through transit of goods—Principal dimensions and tolerances* and its Amendment 1:1994, which is included at the end of the Standard. The text affected by the Amendment is indicated by a marginal bar.

This Standard applies only to international size pallets. The preferred international standard pallet size is 1200 mm × 1000 mm. It is not intended to supersede the existing Australian pallet size of 1155 mm × 1165 mm, as described in AS 4068—1993, but to complement it, ensuring consistency for Australian manufacturers and users.

Recognition of the preferred ISO pallet size is based on Australia's increasing integration into global trade.

The ISO document referenced in this Standard has not been adopted as an Australian Standard.

As this publication has been reproduced from an international Standard, the following modifications apply:

- (a) Its number does not appear on each page of the text.
- (b) The words 'this Australian Standard' should replace the words 'this International Standard' wherever they appear.

The term 'informative' has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. An 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

## INTRODUCTION

The overall dimensions specified in this International Standard are based on, and correspond to, the unit load sizes defined in ISO 3676<sup>1)</sup>.

These pallet sizes are unlikely to cover all requirements because of substantial differences in size, shape and density of products, range of handling devices, regional practice, etc.

Pallets with sizes not specified in this International Standard, but lying within the dimensional deviations of the unit loads defined in ISO 3676 (i.e.  $\pm 40$  mm), should not be rejected on the basis of this International Standard (for example 1 100 mm × 1 100 mm pallets).

Annex A gives illustrations of different pallet types showing the vertical dimensions specified in this International Standard; it is included for additional guidance only.

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1) ISO 3676 : 1983, *Packaging – Unit load sizes – Dimensions*.

NOTES

## AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

# General-purpose flat pallets—Principal dimensions and tolerances (International pallet sizes)

## 1 Scope

This International Standard specifies overall dimensions for single-deck and double-deck non-reversible pallets for through transit of goods, and dimensions related to their handling by pallet trucks, fork lift trucks and other appropriate handling equipment.

## 2 Normative reference

The following standard contains provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this International Standard. At the time of publication, the edition indicated was valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent edition of the standard indicated below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 445 : 1984, *Pallets for materials handling — Vocabulary*.

## 3 Definitions

For the purposes of this International Standard, the definitions given in ISO 445 apply.

## 4 Dimensions

### 4.1 Plan dimensions

#### 4.1.1 Nominal overall dimensions

The nominal overall plan dimensions of pallets shall be as follows:

1 200 mm × 1 000 mm: Pallet size corresponding to the preferred modular unit load size of 1 200 mm × 1 000 mm

1 200 mm × 800 mm: Pallet size corresponding to the recognized unit load size of 1 200 mm × 800 mm

1 140 mm × 1 140 mm: Pallet size corresponding to the recognized square unit load size of 1 140 mm × 1 140 mm, which is derived from the internal width of ISO series 1 general-purpose freight containers<sup>1)</sup>

1 219 mm × 1 016 mm: Acceptable pallet size for a period of transition while metrication goes into effect in those parts of the world where this size is used

#### 4.1.2 Tolerances

The tolerances on the nominal overall plan dimensions given in 4.1.1 shall be  $_{-6}^0$  mm.<sup>2)</sup>

### 4.2 Vertical dimensions for lifting devices

4.2.1 The entries for the forks of fork lift trucks and the fingers of pallet trucks shall be not less than 98 mm high, except for pallets with free entries, where they shall be not less than 95 mm high.

NOTE — Certain pallets manufactured in North America have an entry 89 mm high. Such pallets may be used for international through transit of goods.

4.2.2 If notches for the forks of fork lift trucks are provided, the distance from the top of the notch to the ground shall be not less than 55 mm. The distance from the top of the notch to the base of the stringer itself shall not exceed 45 mm.

4.2.3 The distance from the underside of the lowest element of the top deck to the ground shall not exceed 127 mm for partial four-way pallets and double-deck pallets with free entries.

For full perimeter base pallets, this distance shall not exceed 156 mm.

NOTE — With hygroscopic materials, the dimensions stated in 4.2.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3 relate to an average moisture content of  $(20 \pm 2)$  %.

1) Future developments in freight container technology and construction may permit increases in these plan dimensions up to the limits of the modular dimensions of 1 200 mm.

2) In order to meet the specified tolerances, certain materials require a positive tolerance at the time of manufacture because of shrinkage. Such pallets may have a manufacturing tolerance of  $\pm 3$  mm.