



SEMA DISTRIBUTOR GROUP

Bi-Monthly Update

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SEMA Safeguards Storage Industry

2018 marks the Association's 50th year of service. The underlying theme to our current agenda is that of "Safeguarding". Our focus is on how we can specifically support our industry by continually improving standards of safe design, safe manufacture and safe installation together with safe maintenance procedures.

SEMA's "To Do" list is already well defined and each of our Member groups and companies must lead by example. We are increasing rigour amongst Manufacturers, Distributors, Approved Installation Companies, Racking Inspectors and Installers. The outcome for end users is Surety of Compliance and Return on Investment.

SEMA Member Groups

Each SEMA Full Member manufacturer already commits to meeting SEMA's Codes of Practice. Their design processes must be assessed and approved by an independent body. Member companies provide highly qualified and skilled personnel to work on SEMA's Technical Committee where we help define standards and best practice in the UK, across Europe and, increasingly, globally.

The Members of the SEMA Distributor Group, now consisting of 30 leading Distributor Companies, are currently undergoing their three yearly re-audit and the first of these commenced in November. To ensure continuous improvement takes place, the scope of questions has been widened to embrace training, competency, process improvement and customer satisfaction. SEMA Approved Installation Companies (SAICs) are also to submit to an independently audited QA process.

SEMA and its Member companies are taking the lead, investing to raise standards and

differentiating themselves in the eyes of their customers. SEMA wishes to encourage more like-minded companies who recognise the benefits of operating under the SEMA brand.

SEMA Approved Racking Inspectors (SARIs) number over 100. SARIs need to offer that "fresh pair of eyes" on safety critical issues to the beleaguered warehouse manager who is perpetually focussed on daily challenges. Levels and types of inspection are now under evaluation to ensure consistent service nationwide which is supported by SEMA Technical Bulletin No.5 and an updated Code of Practice currently in development.

SARI courses are incredibly popular and we are witnessing unprecedented levels of demand including international delegates attending from the Far East including Singapore, Thailand and China to the UAE, together with many of our European neighbours.

Standards and Publications

A key role of any trade body is the development of definitive publications.

With commercial ROI in mind, our upcoming Code of Practice on Live Storage is intended to support that

sector of the market (e.g. food and pharmaceutical) where you can't afford for date-sensitive products to be sat around in the warehouse. Work is active on this material.

Cantilever racking is used extensively in many merchandising and retail applications for the storage of long products, typically metal and wood. There are several safety critical measures that users





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must take to keep Cantilever racking in safe working order. To help, SEMA has already updated and published its Code of Practice for the Design and Use of Cantilever Racking Systems. Concurrently, our recently launched Cantilever courses have been finely tuned so that end users can derive the greatest benefit.

We felt that additional rigour around Method Statements was required and an update is work in progress. The document will be published as a Code of Practice (which is more easily enforceable) and will offer superior guidance. The Method Statement part is guidance only as it is possible to have several safe ways of building the same structure and the SEMA method is acknowledged as being only one.

SEMA's international reputation also means that it works extensively alongside European bodies, the European Racking Federation (ERF) and FEM to share its experience and influence in the development of European CEN standards.

Training

SEMA is recognised as a governing training body of the UK storage industry and in 2016, we earned the right to manage our own dedicated, registered training scheme which meets the standards imposed by the Construction Leadership Council. The Storage Equipment Installers' Registration Scheme (SEIRS) was approved to operate as a Partner Card Scheme as it meets the requirements of the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS). Benefits of an easily identifiable, accredited workforce to main contractors looking to comply with CDM regulations are measurable.

SEMA Safety Conference

This year's SEMA Safety Conference will take place on Thursday 2nd November at the National Motorcycle Museum.

To book a place at this year's Safety Conference, please contact **Helen** on **0121 601 6359**.



SEMA – Solutions Safe Removal of Pallets

Q. We had an incident on site recently whereby some rear end swing from a FLT caused some significant damage to an upright. This brought to light that we didn't have guidance on how best to remove pallets from locations in a safe manner to avoid the uprights collapsing.

A. The short answer is that SEMA do not publish any guidance along the lines that you request.

The problem here is the number of variations that can occur in damage levels following an accident. Providing guidance without seeing and assessing the situation is asking for problems. I am sure that you will be well aware that one man's 'minor knock' to a racking upright is another's 'near death' experience!

A common sense appraisal of the situation might in serious situations require a Chartered Structural Engineer specialising in Racking Products to provide guidance but this is always on the basis of a site visit where the severity of the accident and risk to those involved in offloading can be considered as part of the risk assessment and method statement that would be drawn up following this inspection. In other less serious circumstances there might be an obvious safe method of offloading. There are a whole variety of techniques that can be used to make the situation safe depending on circumstances. I hope these comments help and sorry we are not able to offer more general advice.

Cantilever Rack Safety Awareness Course

**Next available course date:-
Friday 25th August 2017**



Places on the SEMA **Cantilever Rack Safety Awareness** course are limited and are typically delivered to no more than 12 delegates at any one time. The cost of the course is **£232.00 + VAT** per delegate and includes full course notes, refreshments and a buffet lunch. To book a place please contact **Paula** on **0121 601 6718**.

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