



SEMA DISTRIBUTOR GROUP

Bi-Monthly Update

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Don't put your insurance at risk!



Jonathan Bennett, Chairman of the SEMA Distributor Companies (SDC) has noticed a distinct change in attitudes towards rack maintenance from end users of storage systems. He said "since compulsory independent auditing of SDC members was introduced in 2014, we have seen the market become much more discerning. As the multichannel approach to distribution continues to advance, these businesses need to know that not too far from their UK-wide operations, there's an SDC company that has the correct level of knowledge on storage design and qualified labour who can offer on-site support".

"Everyone recognises the level of re-assurance that the Gas Safe or NICEIC contractor delivers. In our industry, SEMA Distributor Companies operate on a similar principle. Our standards are set externally, we are independently audited regularly and, for 2017, quality measures are set to rise. It's all about accountability and almost daily, I see the SDC logo requested on more and more tender lists. We now receive calls from companies who have first researched the SEMA website looking for an approved supplier."

The SEMA Distributor Company was launched in 2011 to bring together distributor members of the storage industry who wanted to collectively raise standards. It is part of SEMA, the British Trade Association of the Storage Equipment Industry.

Safe storage follows a cyclical approach; safe manufacture offering full traceability of product. Whether the design is undertaken by the manufacturer or the SDC, it must meet SEMA's strict Codes of Practice. The system is then installed by SEIRS qualified installers.

Regular on-site maintenance is the on-going critical element of operating a safe storage regime. Companies who don't operate a structured approach to rack inspection and repair may risk invalidating their commercial insurance policy.

SDC comprises some thirty members who are entitled to display the SDC logo as a measure of distinction. The SDC audit was the first scheme of its type for the storage industry.

A short video on the benefits of choosing a SEMA Distributor Company and a list of regional members is available at <http://www.sema.org.uk/members/sema-distributor-companies/about>

Diary Date SEMA Technical Seminar

This new Seminar will be held every two years in place of the Standards Seminar and will be a full day event (rather than a half day).

The inaugural event will be held at the Park Inn, Europa Avenue, West Bromwich, on Tuesday 6th June – 9am - 3.30pm.

To book a place at the Technical Seminar please contact **Helen** on **0121 601 6359**.

SEMA Safety Conference

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





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

Cantilever Rack Safety Awareness Course

**Next available course date:-
Friday 5th May 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.



To book your place on the **SEMA Cantilever Rack Safety Awareness** course, please contact **Paula** on **0121 601 6718**.

SEMA - Solutions Recommendations to tether/brace

Q. We've recently had supplied and fitted some 8.5m high racking, comprising of 5 back to back rows. Although we've taken the below steps to ensure correct installation and keep health and safety a priority, we have one question that we can't seem to find a clear/definitive answer on, 'Are there any recommendations to tether/brace racking to a fixed point of a building/structure'?

Please find the purchase, installation and usage guidelines we've taken and put in place below.

- 1 – Supplied manufactured to SEMA guidelines.
- 2 – Installers, SEMA accredited (floor fixings all round and bracing between the back to back sections)
- 3 – Load weights (always under what we specify)
- 4 – Inspection training received
- 5 – General racking protection installed all round

6 – FLT driver awareness

This question comes from our Japanese colleagues as I understand it's common place to tether racking in Japan, possibly because of the earthquake risk?

Any help or advise on the positives and negatives of tethering/bracing would very much be appreciated.

A. It is not normal in Europe to tie racking structures back to the building in any but the most exceptional circumstances.

The building supplier will have designed and constructed the building to a very tight specification as laid down by the client. If anyone is contemplating imposing an extra load on the building structure as would be expected from any ties to the racking, then the designer needs to be advised of the magnitude of those forces and needs to check his calculations to ensure that the building is capable of absorbing those forces within the specified margin of safety.

Plainly since the designer has to 'insure' his work against mistakes there is no incentive on him to accept extra loads on a structure that has already been completed and insured. The response to such a request for a check is normally that no, the building will not accept any extra load beyond what it was designed to do!

The same argument applies the other way round in that where the racking and building are connected, large deflections and loads due to high winds and heavy snow loads would be transferred from the building to the racking, the effects of which the rack designers would have not considered!

I am afraid it all revolves round legal responsibility in the event of a failure as well as the fact that modern block walls are not all that strong when ties from racking are connected to them and are then expected to provide some serious structural restraint.

