

EUROPE AND THE EUROPALLET

The 800 x 1200mm Europallet, often called a *Euro*, is easily recognised by EUR marked in an oval on two diagonally opposite corner blocks. It has always been more popular in mainland Europe than in the UK.



Europallet

The Europallet (shown in the illustration) started life in Austria in the 1950s as a pallet for rail freight and its plan size of 800 x 1200 mm remains ideal for rail, although not for road or containerised sea traffic. Nevertheless, the immense scale of automation in warehouses across Europe and further afield makes it harder to change as time goes on. Although there are more efficient pallet sizes for road and sea, principally the 1200 x 1000mm (or 48" x 40") pallet, they exist alongside the Europallet which is expanding in significance as far away from Europe as the USA.

It was the dominance of the 800 x 1200mm Europallet that generated the neatly fitting European *packaging module* of 400 x 600mm that has now permeated through many sectors of consumer and industrial packaging - including plastic, glass and paper. This module became an international standard with ISO 3394: 1984 *Dimensions of rigid rectangular packages - Transport packages - Plan dimensions of rigid rectangular transport packages with a modular relationship to 1200 mm x 1000 mm and 1200 mm x 800 mm pallets and unit loads*

There is a reluctance to change from the Europallet and there is a near impossibility in eastern European countries where, until recently, the political system demanded only Europallets were used. Nevertheless, the attraction of a 25% greater deck area per payload has meant that the 1200 x 1000mm (UK size) pallet has made major inroads in Europe. Chep Europe for example offers both sizes, both in trademark blue.

Each Euro has a unique manufacturer's number so the country of origin and maker can be traced in the event of problems with quality. The Euro can only be made by licensed manufacturers and PalletLink maintain a list of official Euro approved makers across the UK and Europe for legally made Europallets. A good way to spot fake Europallets is if the nails are not marked with I/D letters on every nailhead the pallet is an unlicensed Europallet. UK makers are listed in this site as Datasheet 11n, other countries on application to us. We have EUR makers on file as far away as Latvia and Italy.

Other Europallet Datasheets published by Palletlink include – *Safe working loads, Fitting efficiently into Freight Containers, How to register, Sizes volumes and self weight, Issues with overseas acceptance.*

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