

## The 'Dusseldorfer' half size pallet - general description

Also called a *half pallet* or a *point of sale pallet*. This pallet originated in Germany and at 800 x 600mm is exactly half the size of the 800 x 1200mm Europallet with the stringer bearer running the 800mm length. It is now widely used in European supermarkets and even in a few local UK supermarkets. Some overseas buyers specify it for UK food exports to European countries; one typical example is bags of specialised bread flour destined for German supermarkets. Dusseldorfers are also known as *point of sale pallet* pallets because they are designed to be hand pallet trucked from store into the supermarket sales area loaded with goods thus minimising product handling. Because they are usually placed *narrow end* to customer they have to have truck access into the 600 side and special provision is made so a standard pedestrian truck will fit and the truck needs minimum spacing between inside faces of pressed sheet steel blocks of 584mm. Germany has produced a national standard - DIN 15146-4: 1991: *Pallets; timber four-way flat pallets; 800 x 600mm*. (Don't be confused that the title does not include "Dusseldorfer").



**Dusseldorfer pallet**

Like this one, many internationally used pallets have national or commercial origins but may still be required by an overseas importer. For example many USA food products are exported on the 40" x 48" US grocery pallet; many French products and a few British are routinely shipped to German supermarkets on the half size "Dusseldorfer". The advantage of using a pallet widely used in the importers country is to avoid a possible financial packaging waste penalty. Rentals of identical half size design are available in Germany and nearby countries.

Unlike the Europallet the Dusseldorfer is not made under licence and any company is free to manufacture. However you need to establish whether your customer will insist on the special pressed steel blocks, these blocks ease pedestrian truck access and handling considerably.

There are two types of *half pallet*, the official one with pressed steel outer blocks, wooden stringers and boards, all steel riveted together - this is the DIN 15146-4 "Dusseldorfer".

The second all-timber 6-block design with traditional wood blocks and nailed joints with a deck cantilever on one side so truck forks enter to the left of all 6 blocks. However this is a non-standard design and suppliers stand a chance of having the lot rejected unless the customer has authorised the non-standard type.

There are suppliers in Germany and a few in other European countries. Outside Germany the demand for the Dusseldorfer is less and several European wood pallet makers have ceased because of lack of demand.

See datasheet 15b for detailed DIN 15146-4 specification.

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