

## Summary of potato box sizes and capacities as listed in BS 7611

The BS only covers 1 tonne (1000kg) boxes and the following are British Standard plan sizes or the pallet base sizes. The permitted height of sides and ends are shown in 2 below.

1.	Pallet side <i>length</i> x pallet end <i>width</i>	BS size code
	1830 x 1220	<b>A</b>
	1830 x 1195	<b>B</b>
	1805 x 1195	<b>C</b>
	1525 x 1195	<b>D</b>
	1290 x 1280	<b>E</b>
	1270 x 1270	<b>F</b>

2. The permitted overall heights *including* the pallet base are as follows:-

Size codes A, B and C	885mm to 1070mm max
Size codes D	885mm to 1220mm max
Size codes E and F	885mm to 1270mm max

Example: SIDE: A box plan size code 'A' will have overall maximum side of 1830 x 1070mm but when subtracting a pallet base height of 165 would be a finished size of 1830 x 905mm high.

Example: END: The end of the same box code A would be a finished 1220 x 905mm high.

Fewer boxes are now made of size codes D, E and F. There is a rough 20:80 split between 20mm gapped (slatted) boards and tight boarding. It is harder to achieve Class 8 with slatted sides.

3. Pallet truck access height is between 92 and 155mm to allow for standard pedestrian trucks.
4. Minimum contact area between stacked boxes is equivalent to 4 corner posts of 50mm x 75mm.
5. To meet the BS the following marking is mandatory - stack height, size code, year of manufacture so all the following is required on a size E box: **8 HIGH MAX E 2008 BS 7611: 1992**
6. The following marking is optional eg. **xx kg, size in mm, makers name, owners name**

In Scotland most boxes are made from homegrown Sitka or Norway spruce and in England and Wales perhaps a 50:50 mix between homegrown spruce and Baltic red/whitewood. Hardwoods are rarely used and the strongest softwood species used in the UK for boxes are Larch, Baltic redwood and Scots pine.

**The published BS 7611 contains full details; this is only a guide with limited information.**

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