

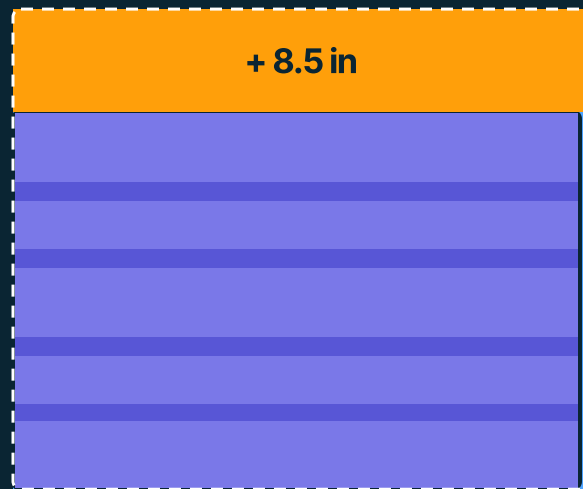
[Sizes](#)[Euro pallets](#)[Materials](#)[Pooling](#)[Weight](#)

Standard Pallet Sizes, Dimensions & Weight Guide

U.S. and Euro pallet specifications for shipping and warehousing

U.S. 48 × 40 (dashed)

EPAL 1,200 × 800



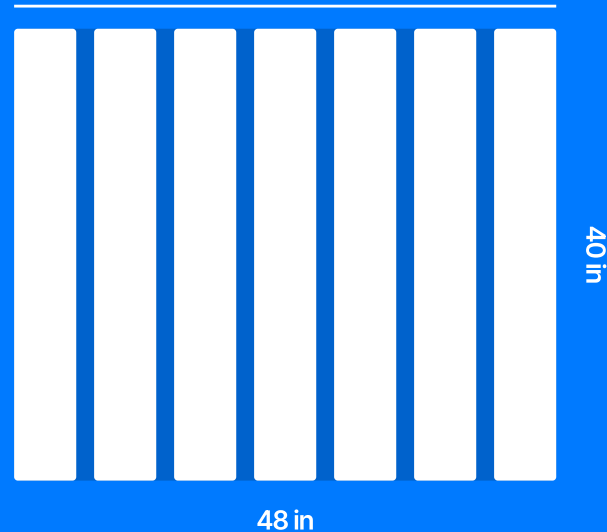
Top view, to scale

- 01 · WHAT IS THE STANDARD PALLET SIZE

48 × 40

inches · 1,219 × 1,016 mm · the GMA pallet

In the United States, the most common standard pallet size is 48 × 40 inches, or approximately 1,219 × 1,016 millimeters. Often called the GMA pallet, this footprint is widely used in grocery, retail, and general distribution. Other sizes, including 42 × 42 inches and 48 × 48 inches, serve specific products and industries. [1]

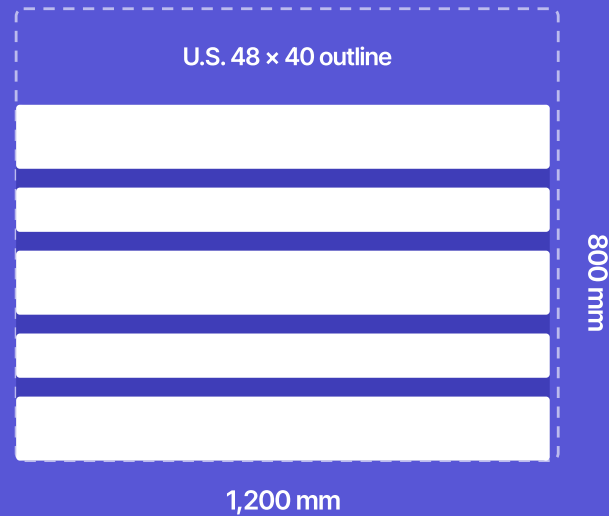


- 01 · AND IN EUROPE

1,200 × 800

millimeters · 47.24 × 31.50 in · EPAL Euro

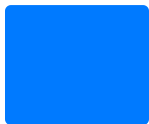
In Europe, the standard EPAL Euro pallet measures 1,200 × 800 millimeters, or approximately 47.24 × 31.50 inches. Its narrower footprint means it is not interchangeable with a U.S. 48 × 40 pallet in every storage or shipping setup. [2]



- DIMENSIONS

Standard pallet size chart

Footprints drawn to one scale



48 × 40

1,219 × 1,016 mm

GMA style; grocery and general retail



42 × 42

1,067 × 1,067 mm

Paint, telecom, and square loads



48 × 48

1,219 × 1,219 mm

Drums, chemicals, and industrial products



48 × 42

1,219 × 1,067 mm

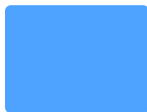
Chemical and beverage applications



40 × 40

1,016 × 1,016 mm

Dairy and other square loads



48 × 36

1,219 × 914 mm

Beverage and some building materials



47.24 × 31.50

1,200 × 800 mm

EPAL 1 Euro pallet

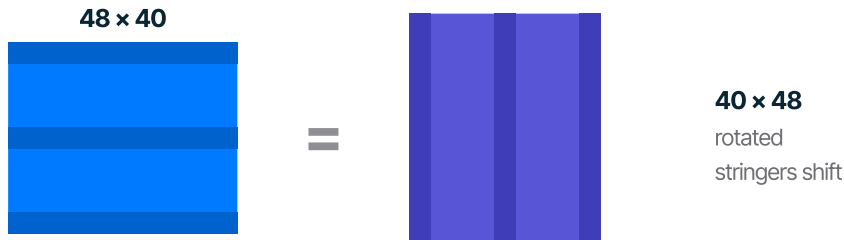


Conversions are rounded. These are typical applications, not exclusive industry standards. Confirm the actual pallet specification with the shipper and receiver. Sources: [1–3,6,9].

- DIMENSIONS

Reading the numbers

What do pallet dimensions include



These measurements describe the empty pallet footprint. Measure the loaded unit separately, including the pallet, product, and any overhang. Both 48 x 40 and 40 x 48 describe the same rectangle when rotated, but stringer direction and fork entry can affect equipment compatibility.

GMA

What does GMA pallet mean

GMA refers to the Grocery Manufacturers Association. Today, the term is often used broadly for 48 x 40 pallets. A matching footprint alone does not establish construction, condition, or load rating. [1]

Euro pallet sizes and specifications

A standard EPAL Euro pallet, also called EPAL 1, is a reusable wooden block pallet used extensively in European supply chains. Its specifications are defined by the European Pallet Association. [2]



Footprint

1,200 × 800

mm / approximately 47.24 × 31.50
in



Empty pallet height

144

mm / approximately 5.67 in



Empty pallet weight

≈ 25

kg / 55 lb



Safe working load

1,500

kg / approximately 3,307 lb



Identification: EPAL markings and applicable IPPC
treatment markings

These figures apply to the EPAL 1 design. They are not universal specifications for every pallet described as "Euro size." The pallet's condition and the intended support and loading arrangement still matter. [2]

- EURO PALLETS

U.S. pallets versus Euro pallets

A U.S. 48 × 40 pallet is approximately 8.5 inches wider than an EPAL Euro pallet when their longer sides are aligned. That difference affects carton layouts and floor space. It can also change whether the pallet has adequate support in a particular rack.



Before receiving imported goods, confirm whether the destination accepts Euro pallets, whether equipment can handle them, and whether the product must be transferred to another pallet. Any repalletizing should be planned before arrival so labor, replacement pallets, and delivery timing can be coordinated.



Dashed: U.S. 48 × 40

Longer sides aligned, drawn to scale

Size and treatment are separate questions

Are all European pallets the same size

EPAL 1

1,200 × 800 mm

EPAL 2

1,200 × 1,000 mm

No. EPAL 1 measures 1,200 × 800 mm, while EPAL 2 measures 1,200 × 1,000 mm. EPAL also publishes specifications for half pallets and other load carriers. Request the actual dimensions and pallet type instead of relying only on “European pallet” as a description. [3]



Do pallets need treatment for international shipping

Regulated solid wood packaging entering the United States must meet applicable ISPM 15 treatment and marking requirements, subject to specific exemptions. Export requirements depend on the destination. Confirm the route and packaging requirements with your supplier and shipping partners before loading. [4,5]



Pallet size and treatment are separate requirements. A 48 × 40 pallet may need compliant treatment for an international movement, while a Euro sized pallet is not automatically compliant simply because of its dimensions.

Types of pallets by material



Solid wood

General freight, retail, grocery, and industrial distribution

Widely available; many designs can be repaired. Inspect for damage, nails, contamination, and moisture. Regulated international movements may require treatment.



Plastic

Reusable distribution, food and beverage, and compatible automated systems

Consistent molded designs and no wood splinters. Confirm cleaning procedures, temperature limits, fire protection requirements, and rack rating for the model.



Engineered or molded wood

Export and space conscious shipping applications

Often nestable. Verify capacity, moisture exposure limits, fork access, and whether the complete packaging assembly qualifies for a treatment exemption.



Paper or corrugated fiberboard

Weight sensitive shipments and selected one way distribution

Can reduce tare weight. Confirm moisture resistance, load distribution, handling frequency, and storage suitability.



Metal

Heavy industrial loads and repeated internal movements

Steel designs can provide durable reusable support. Confirm tare weight, handling compatibility, corrosion protection, and return logistics.

- MATERIALS

Footprint and material are separate choices

Pallet material affects tare weight, durability, cleaning, repair options, and total cost. Choose a platform around the product, handling equipment, storage conditions, and receiving requirements. Footprint and material are separate choices: a 48 × 40 inch pallet can be made from wood, plastic, or other materials.

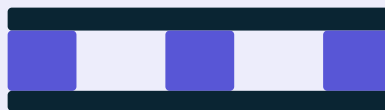
Wood

Plastic

Wood pallets and plastic pallets

Wood is a practical option for many shipping networks, especially when pallet availability and repair options matter. Plastic can suit repeated use and systems that benefit from consistent dimensions. Compare the complete operating cost, including cleaning, damage, retrieval, loss, and receiver acceptance, rather than purchase price alone.

Pallet material versus pallet construction



Block
Deck on blocks



Stringer
Lengthwise support members

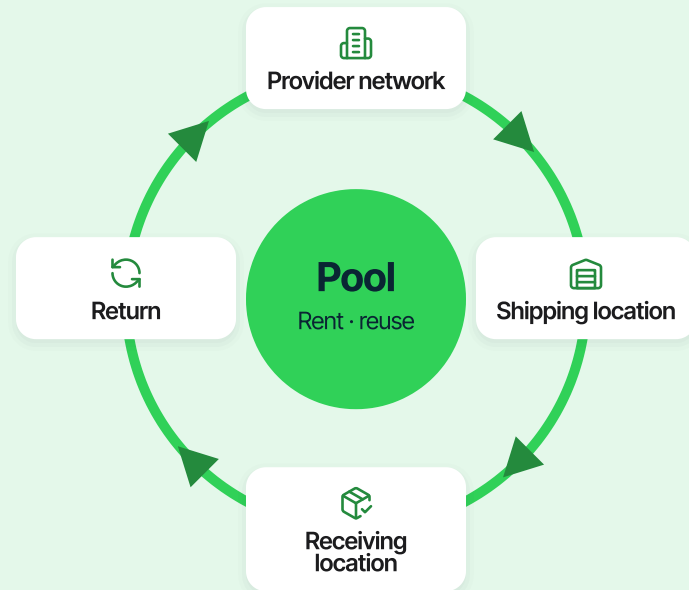
Block and stringer describe construction, not material. Block pallets support the deck on blocks; stringer pallets use lengthwise support members. Two way and four way entry describe access for handling equipment. Check forklift and pallet jack compatibility separately.

• 04 • PALLET POOLING

iGPS plastic pallets and pallet pooling

iGPS Logistics provides rentable, 100% recyclable plastic pallets and describes itself as North America's leading plastic pallet pooling provider. Its system offers an alternative to purchasing and managing a separate pallet inventory. [10,11]

Pallet pooling is a rental and reuse model: platforms circulate through participating shipping and receiving locations and return through the provider's network. It is an ownership and service arrangement, rather than a separate pallet material. Wood pallets can also be pooled.



- PALLET POOLING

Key iGPS specifications



Platform size

48 × 40 in

Gen 6 and Gen 6.1: nominal 48 × 40 inches, meeting CBA standards formerly associated with GMA.



Empty height

5.62 in

Gen 6 and Gen 6.1: 5.62 inches.



Empty weight

≈ 50 lb

Gen 6: approximately 50 lb. Gen 6.1: less than 50 lb. Weight varies by model.



Racking capacity

2,800 lb

2,800 lb evenly distributed, with the specified continuous support of at least 2 inches on both longitudinal rails.



Material and repair

HDPE

Gen 6 and Gen 6.1: HDPE plastic; listed as repairable by welding.



Identification

RFID

RFID and barcodes support identification, tracking, and compatible automated workflows.

Source: iGPS's current pallet specification page, which lists Gen 6 and Gen 6.1 alongside earlier models. Dimensions and weights are approximate. iGPS notes that loading method, temperature, storage duration, and support conditions affect use; confirm the model and application with the provider. [12]

- WEIGHT SAVINGS DEPEND ON THE COMPARISON

up to
35%

lighter than typical multi use wood pallets, per iGPS

iGPS states that its pallets can be up to 35% lighter than typical multi use wood pallets. This is a provider comparison with a particular wood pallet category. An iGPS plastic pallet is not necessarily lighter than every wooden pallet, including lightweight GMA style designs. [10]



Tracking and warehouse compatibility

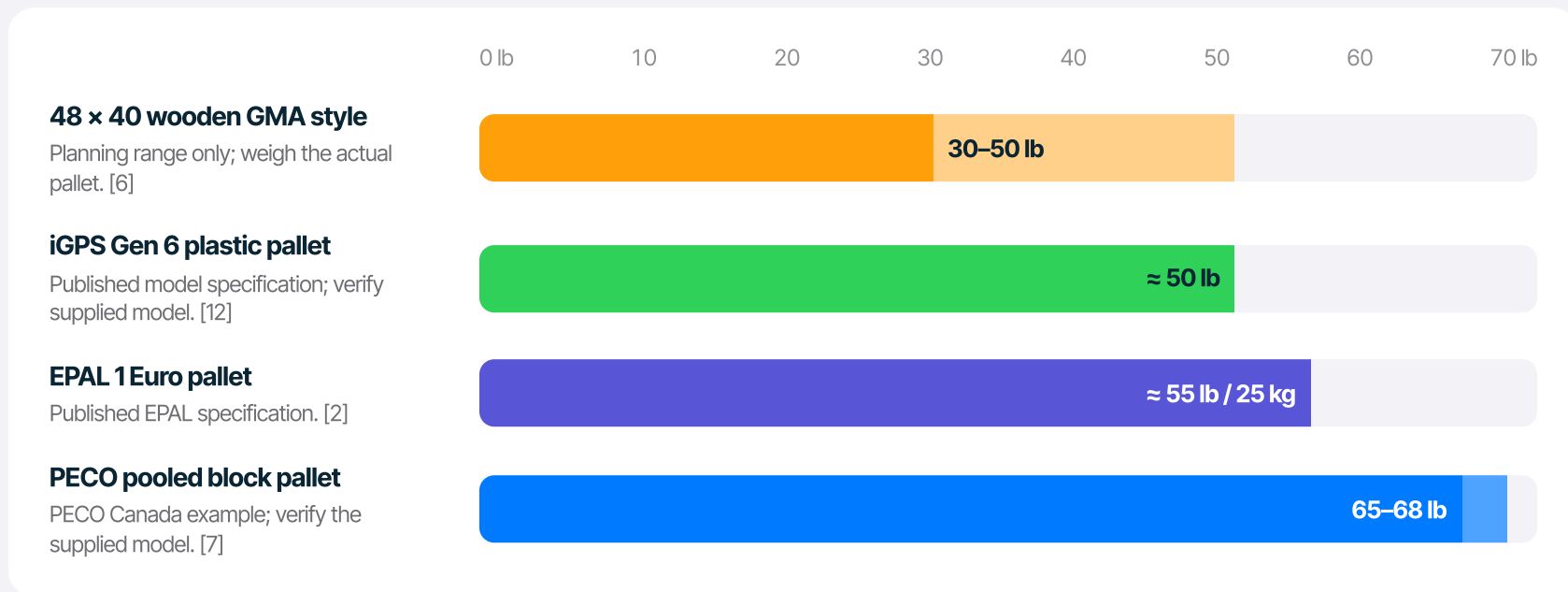
Embedded RFID tags and readable identifiers support visibility when connected to the appropriate readers, software, and processes. RFID does not by itself provide continuous GPS location updates. Confirm integration and testing requirements for any automated storage and retrieval system, commonly called ASRS.



Before selecting a pool, confirm destination acceptance, charges, transfer records, pickup arrangements, and loss responsibilities. Recyclable pallets also need an appropriate recovery channel at the end of service.

How much does a pallet weigh

An empty pallet's weight is its tare weight. The weight of a loaded pallet includes the product, the pallet, and packaging or securing materials. Always distinguish between these figures when requesting a freight quote.



Light segments show a published range. Wood species, moisture, construction, repairs, and material all affect tare weight. Plastic and specialty pallets have their own specifications. A shared footprint does not mean two pallets weigh the same amount.

- WEIGHT

How to calculate loaded pallet weight

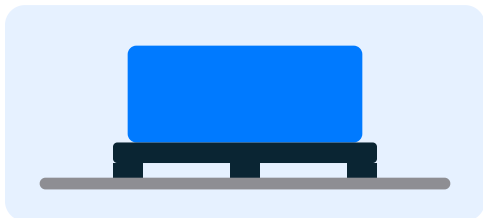
Loaded pallet weight = product weight + empty pallet weight + packaging and securing materials.



Example: 1,800 lb of product + a 40 lb pallet + 10 lb of wrap and packaging = 1,850 lb total. The 40 lb pallet is an example, not a standard weight to use for every shipment.

How much weight can a pallet hold

There is no single weight limit for all 48 × 40 pallets. Use the supplier's rating for the specific design, condition, load distribution, and handling arrangement. The pallet, rack, handling equipment, packaging, and carrier can impose different limits.



Static load

A stationary load with the pallet supported as specified, such as on a level floor.



Dynamic load

A load being moved under the rated handling conditions.



Racking load

A load supported in a specified rack configuration, potentially spanning an unsupported space.

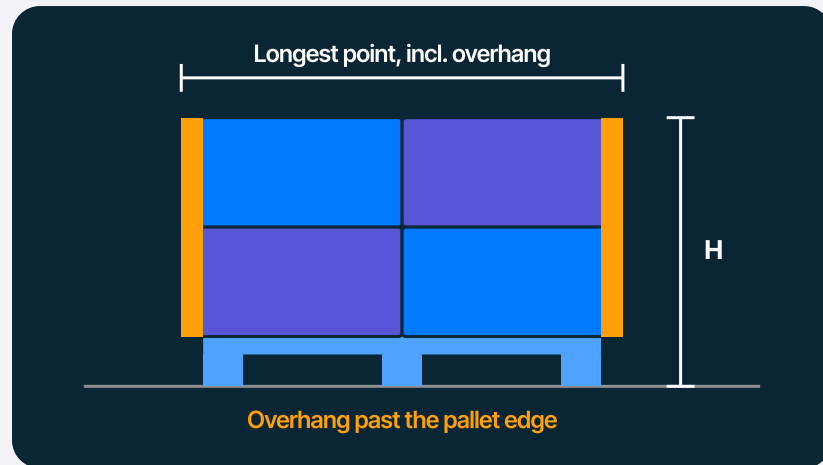


A floor supported rating should not be used as a rack rating. For example, EPAL's published 1,500 kg safe working load does not establish the capacity of your complete rack and pallet arrangement. Confirm suitability before storage. [2,8]

How to measure a pallet for a freight quote

Measure the complete loaded unit at its widest, longest, and highest points. Include overhanging cartons, wrap, and protective packaging. A 48 × 40 pallet with product extending beyond its edges has a larger shipping footprint.

- 1 Record loaded length × width × height and total gross weight for each pallet type.
- 2 Confirm whether the freight can be stacked and whether it can support another loaded unit.
- 3 Provide pallet count, product description, temperature requirements, and pickup and delivery details.
- 4 Confirm receiver requirements for pallet dimensions, condition, labels, and maximum weight before shipping.

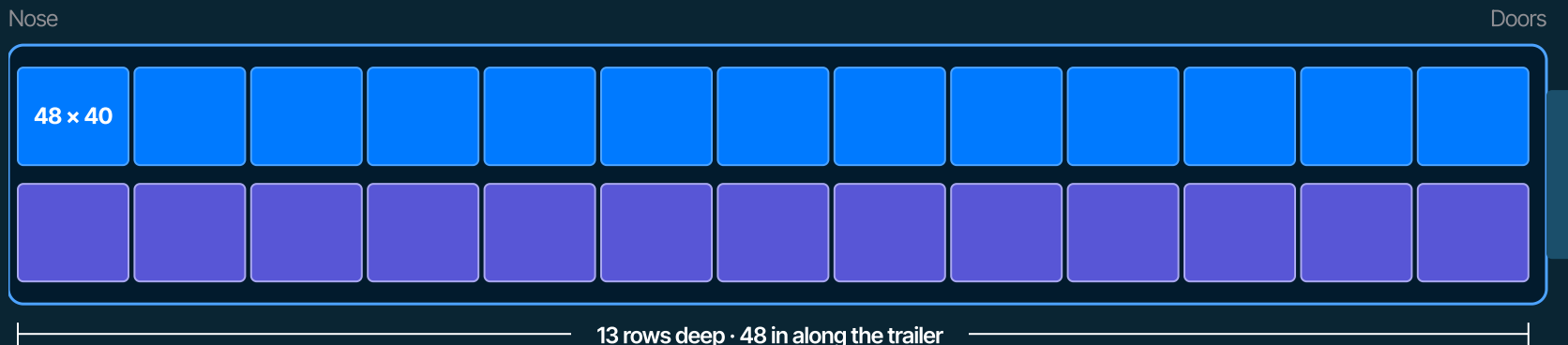


Is there a standard loaded pallet height

No single height applies to every shipment. Carton strength, load stability, rack openings, sprinkler clearance, equipment, trailer space, and receiving requirements all affect the permitted height. Measure from the floor to the highest point, including the pallet itself.

- FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How many pallets fit in a 53 foot trailer



26 pallets

A common floor loading layout fits 26 pallets measuring 48 × 40 inches, arranged two across and 13 rows deep with the 48 inch dimension along the trailer. This is a planning layout, not a guaranteed shipment count. Interior dimensions, overhang, weight, load securement, and stacking restrictions can reduce the usable quantity.

More questions we hear

01

Can Euro pallets be used in U.S. warehouses

They can be used where the facility's equipment, storage system, and receiving policy permit them. Confirm acceptance in advance. Some shipments may require repalletizing before storage or delivery.

02

Can a Euro pallet be placed directly into standard U.S. racking

Do not assume compatibility. Its narrower footprint can change how it rests on rack supports. The warehouse should confirm the pallet orientation, support arrangement, and rated capacity before putaway.

03

Does a pallet's footprint determine its weight capacity

No. Two pallets with identical dimensions can have different materials, construction, condition, and load ratings. Confirm the rating for the actual pallet and its intended use.

- NEXT STEPS

Plan your next palletized shipment with Taylor

Pallet dimensions influence storage, handling, and transportation from the first receipt to final delivery. Taylor Logistics helps businesses coordinate warehousing and transportation around their product and distribution requirements.

Share your pallet dimensions, loaded height, total weight, volume, and destination requirements with our team to discuss the right next steps.



**Talk to Taylor about your
warehousing and transportation
needs.**

taylorlogistics.com →

• REFERENCE

Sources and verification

Specifications checked October 19, 2026. Numeric references in the article correspond to the sources below. Technical review should confirm any Taylor specific acceptance requirements before publication.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1 Millwood — 48 × 40 GMA pallet | 2 EPAL — Euro pallet specifications | 3 EPAL — Load carrier overview |
| 4 USDA APHIS — Import wood packaging material | 5 USDA APHIS — Export wood packaging material | 6 A-1 Pallets — Wood pallet weight and dimensions |
| 7 PECO — Canada pallet specifications | 8 CHEP — B4840A full size pallet specifications | 9 Kamps — Standard pallet sizes |
| 10 iGPS — FAQs | 11 iGPS — Market leader | 12 iGPS — Pallet specification sheet |
| 13 Litco — Molded wood pallets | 14 Litco — Corrugated pallets | 15 Steel King — Steel pallet |