

Distribution Performance Solutions Insights

Overview of MHS Permitting

Understanding the permitting requirements for a material handling system (MHS) is critical to the success of a project, especially with growing compliance and code regulations. The permitting process can be broken down into the following areas:

Structural Engineering

A professional and stamped structural engineering analysis is required for most pallet rack, shelving, work-platform, pick-module systems. This engineering covers the design of the structure, capacities, flooring, seismic requirements and more.

High-Pile Analysis

A high-pile analysis determines if a sprinkler system meets codes based on the sprinkler system design, products stored, density, heights, layout and other factors. More stringent requirements apply for higher hazard materials (e.g. plastics, chemicals, etc.), with products classified from Class-1 to Class-4 based on their hazard level. In addition to potential sprinkler system requirements, the MHS design can require special items to be compliant, such as pallet back and side stops for racking, fire-baffles and more.

Anchor Inspection

Once a structure is installed, typically an anchor inspection is required to get final permits. Anchors are tested (e.g. torque) during this inspection.

Electrical

Material handling systems involving electrical power will typically require a permit. Examples of this are conveyor systems, lifts, goods-to-person systems and other.



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Safety, Access and Related

Certain material handling systems must meet codes as they relate to safety and access, including:

1. Stairs and handrails
2. Walkways
3. Distance from exit doors
4. Emergency stops (for powered items)
5. Parking (e.g. in case of adding facility square footage through work-platform or mezzanine)
6. Other

Other

While there are federal regulations that must be met, each individual state and municipality can manage the process differently and it is important to know and understand how these agencies interpret and apply the regulations.

The process for managing the above can be complex and time consuming. If not done correctly, mistakes can add weeks and months to a project, as well as cost. All the above should be done by qualified professional parties, licensed in the states where the MHS resides. It is important to work with a partner who fully understands the process, requirements, and can provide efficient and effective material handling system permitting.

DPS provides the expertise to help our clients make the very best distribution operations decisions. We provide turnkey design and engineering, systems provision, implementation, integration and support. To learn more about how DPS can help you improve your distribution operations call 1-855-666-4554.



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