

PDS VERSION 6.8

WHAT'S NEW IN VERSION 6.8

PDS 6.8 represents a milestone in the development of system-level unit load design tools provided by PDS. Research sponsored by the Pallet Foundation and jointly conducted by NWPCA staff engineers and VA Tech has led to a breakthrough in the understanding of how plastic pails buckle when subjected to stacking loads on flexible wooden pallets. Plastic pails can now be analyzed in conjunction with the pallet to determine how highly the loads are concentrated on individual pails and the resulting safety factor against buckling failure. This provides an important check to ensure that plastic pails are adequately supported by the pallet and facilitates an opportunity to optimize the pail grade specification along with the pallet design.

This release marks the completion of a comprehensive suite of system-level unit load design and analysis tools. Unit loads consisting of Boxes, Sheet Goods, Drums, and Plastic Pails can all be analyzed as a complete structural system with the pallet.

PDS 6.8 includes the additional ability to inset or outset blocks relative to the stringerboards and deckboards. This is the first installment of a series of PDS updates that will greatly increase the amount of customization that can be done for block pallet designs. The ability to mix block sizes, delete individual blocks, and control orientation of individual blocks are planned for upcoming releases.

Improvements and new features included in PDS 6.8 are:

- Plastic pail unit load analysis now includes output for the pail load factor and safety factor.
- Block pallet blocks can be inset and outset for any individual block or rows/columns of blocks independently.
- The allowed number of deckboards has been increased for stringer pallets.
- Various bug fixes and enhancements.

(Release Date: December 20, 2023)



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PALLET DESIGN HELP

A comprehensive **PDS User's Guide** is built into the software program to help answer questions 24/7 regarding pallet design. The User's Guide includes an overview of unit load analysis. It is readily available and accessible from the **Opening Window Start Dialog**, through the **Help** menu, and at the **bottom left of every window** within the design wizard. PDS Users can also search this valuable resource to learn more about pallet design from a variety of topics.

Stay updated on the Pallet Design System™ by opting-in to NWPCA email communications for "PDS News." If you need additional support assistance, contact 703-519-6104 or visit www.PalletDesignSystem.com.



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