

Rack Safety: Responsibilities/Definitions

Owner/Operator - The party that is responsible for managing and maintaining the rack system with responsibilities that include:

- Maintaining a safe pallet rack system.
- Maintaining up-to-date drawings and engineering documentation.
- Maintaining load capacity plaques.
- Conducting regular inspections (as outlined in the RMI “Considerations for the Planning and Use of Industrial Steel Storage Racks”).
- Selecting a Supervising Engineer and Rack Repair Provider.

Supervising Engineer - A qualified Rack Design Engineer who is skilled in structural analysis, design and application of rack systems, and whose responsibilities include:

- Identifying the original manufacturer of the rack system and whether or not the system is RMI/ANSI Specification compliant, as applicable.
- Reviewing system documentation to validate the capacity rating for the section of the rack that is being repaired.
- Developing an assessment protocol to identify and grade damaged conditions that should identify overloading or damaged condition that could render the system unsafe and that could require unloading.
- Overseeing the scope and thoroughness of the assessment of damage repairs.
- Designing and approving the repair protocol to address all conditions identified by the Field Assessor.
- Developing repair solutions that address all of the loads imparted on the damaged components (static, seismic, etc.), not just the strength of individual members being repaired. All work must be compliant with applicable state laws and building codes.

Field Assessor - Works under the direction of the Supervising Engineer with responsibilities that include:

- Identifying the manufacturer of a rack system (where possible) and obtaining the system's documentation, if available. (If original engineering documentation is not available, field measurements to document the actual details of the rack system's fabrication may have to be taken).
- Reviewing the system's configuration and comparing it to the system's drawings (beam levels, loads, etc.).
- Noting any variances from system drawings.
- Identifying all damage based on instructions from the Supervising Engineer and recording the location of damaged components.
- Performing post-repair or replacement inspections and reporting the results, as required by the Supervising Engineer.

OEM - The original equipment manufacturer of the racking system

Rack Repair Provider - The responsible party for assessing and/or repairing the rack system or components including:

- Reviewing drawings and repair solutions that the Supervising Engineer recommends.
- Implementing the repair or replacement solution, as directed by the Supervising Engineer.
- Providing updated LARC drawings to the Owner that incorporate proposed repairs or replacements, as directed by the Supervising Engineer.

Definitions:

- **Rack Repair** - Encompasses the process of returning a damaged rack system to its required design capacity and integrity. Repair work may include repairing the damaged rack components, as well as, replacing them, as needed.
- **Component** - A finished part consisting of members. For example, an upright frame is considered a component, while the pieces that are used to build the frame are considered members.
- **Load Application and Rack Configuration (LARC) Drawings** - Show appropriate details of the rack system that is affected by the repair.