Pallet Racking Height Checklist

Building Constraints

- [ ] Measure floor-to-ceiling height (allow at least 300 mm clearance below roof beams or sprinklers).
- [ ] Check for obstructions - lights, ducts, heaters, sprinkler heads, etc.
- [ ] Confirm fire safety zones and sprinkler coverage comply if pallet racking extends near the ceiling.

Equipment & Handling

- [ ] Verify maximum lift height of your forklifts or reach trucks.
- [ ] Ensure truck mast height fits within your building (mast + pallet height).
- [ ] If automation is used (AS/RS cranes, shuttles), consult manufacturer limits (some go up to 40m).

Structural & Floor Safety

- [ ] Get a floor load capacity test – tall pallet racking transfers heavy point loads.
- [ ] Confirm all pallet racking is anchored and has proper base plates.
- [ ] Ensure pallet racking design meets SEMA or BS EN 15512 standards.
- [ ] Keep height-to-depth ratio within manufacturer recommendations (commonly ≤ 6:1).

Regulatory Compliance

- [ ] Follow SEMA Code of Practice for layout, load data, and inspection.
- [ ] Maintain regular HSE-compliant racking inspections (annual by a SEMA-approved inspector).
- [ ] Display a load notice showing max load per beam and per bay.

Operational & Safety Checks

- [ ] Provide adequate aisle width for forklift maneuvering.
- [ ] Maintain clear vertical clearances (at least 75–100 mm above pallet loads).
- [ ] Consider safety barriers, rack protection, and anti-collapse mesh for tall systems.
- [ ] Train operators on safe stacking and retrieval at height.

Shelving & Racking Ltd | 0800 612 3210 | sales@racking-ltd.co.uk