

Suggested Procedures for Natural Rubber Receivers ***Astlett Customer Help Sheet***

Weight

Natural rubber will arrive, after a very long journey, in wooden crates or shrink-wrapped pallets. The net weight in either case will be 1200 KG or 1260 KG, depending on whether 33.33KG bales or 35KG bales are used. Each unit will have 36 bales.

Marks

All units will be marked with the NR GRADE, NET and GROSS weights, factory ID, production lot number (referenced in Test Certificates supplied), pallet number in the lot, and country of origin. Also there will be unique shipping marks that distinguish this lot from all others. These marks should be cross-checked with the delivery order that Astlett faxes your company prior to each delivery.

Condition

The rubber units may have had a rough journey in the one-way packing. Any 'rough' units should be recoopered to avoid handling, storage or contamination problems. Shrink-wrap units are subject to *slumping* due to cold flow (see picture at right), especially for Controlled Viscosity grades. Handle With Care.



Inspection

Simply by cutting *windows* (4" V shaped cuts) in the polyethylene wrappers in several places between the slats of each crate, a receiver can check for the possibility of any moisture, contamination, infestation, etc. There is no need to destroy the unit.

Moisture

If moisture is discovered, measures should be taken to promote drying by cutting numerous *windows*. This lets any trapped moisture escape. If bleach is discovered, more vigorous drying efforts should be undertaken. Typically, removing the crate and outer liner, *windowing* the affected bales, separating or stripping the bales to expose to air flow, and using a fan or heater to speed drying of the rubber are suggested procedures. The rubber usually returns to its original processed colour. The quality is not affected! See more tips and information on dealing with moisture.

Storage

Wooden crates in good condition usually may be stored three high, otherwise two high. Shrink-wrapped units are one high or two high if tiers are *staggered*. Racks are efficient.

Shelf Life

Natural Rubber has a very long shelf life (at least 50 years). However, the trade considers one year as prime/normal. Some *freezing* and *cross-linking* may occur. These are reversible phenomena by heating or premasticating. Read more information on rubber storage and aging.