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# CONTAINER LOADING GUIDELINES

There are certain guidelines and good practices you should follow when loading your cargo, to ensure your goods are not damaged.

Customs can inspect your container if they find incorrect or improper loading, which may trigger speculation of improper or hidden items concealed with your shipment. This will only cause a long drawn-out check of your shipment, which will result in delays and additional costs.

## Four Factors You Should Consider When Loading Your Container:

### 1. Distribute Weight Evenly

Distribute weight evenly over the full container floor, and remember that you are not allowed to surpass the maximum mass/weight capacity of a container (Payload) with the cargo you are loading into it.

Rating – Tare = Payload

### 2. Utilize Space Properly

Utilize the entire space of the container, wall to wall, filling empty spaces with dunnage. A tightly packed container will minimize any movement or damage to the cargo. Another handy trick is to use straps to secure cargo.

Do not load cargo all the way to the top for the back half of a container, and then load over the entire area of the floor in the other half of the container.

Do not add pressure to container doors. Use a fence or gate if required.

### 3. Organize your goods by compatibility

Pay careful attention to what you are packing together. Assess the weight, size, and density of the items. Assess weight and size to liquids and solids to odors. Organize compatible items and separate incompatible items and then properly load your container.

- Heavier items should never be loaded above items of lesser weight for risk of crushing.
- High-density packages loaded next to low-density packages also create risks of crushing or otherwise damaging cargo.
- Cushioning material should be placed between items and dunnage used to fill voids to prevent movement and chafing damage.
- Containers of wet goods should never be loaded above dry cargo. If dry and wet cargo are loaded on the same level, dunnage should be used to raise dry cargo off the ground to prevent damage in the event of leakage.

### 4. Be Compliant to Hazardous Material

Understand and be compliant with hazardous materials regulations. For more information see International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code (IMDG).

**Take proper care in all aspects of loading a container.  
Even commodities that appear resilient  
may get damaged when loaded improperly.**