

MOST COMMON OCEAN CONTAINER SPECIFICATIONS

The following dimensions and weights are offered as average indicators. There are numerous "series" of containers that are produced and utilized by various steamship lines, so these specifications may vary slightly, depending on the ocean carrier.

SIZE	INTERIOR DIMENSIONS	CUBIC CAPACITY	Max. Payload (kg./lbs)
Standard Containers Suitable for normal cargo			
20'	19' 5" x 7' 8" x 7' 9"	1,164 Cu Ft. 33 Cbm	22,090 kg 48,600 lbs
40'	39' 6" x 7' 8" x 7' 9"	2,328 Cu Ft. 66 Cbm	27,373 kg 60,350 lbs
High Cube Containers Specifically for light, voluminous, or overheight cargo			
40'	36' 6" x 7' 8" x 8' 10"	2,684 Cu Ft 76 Cbm	26,660 kg 58,780 lbs
Open Top containers Has a removable tarpaulin. Specifically for over-height cargo. Allows for e.g. loading by crane.			
20'	19' 5" x 7' 8" x 7' 10"	1,164 Cu Ft. 33 Cbm	17,828 kg 39,299 lbs
40'	39' 6" x 7' 8" x 7' 8"	2,260 Cu Ft. 64 CBM	26,032 kg 57,400 lbs
Flat Rack Containers Specifically for heavy loads & over-width cargo. Ideal for "out of gauge" cargo that will not fit inside a container.			
20'	19' 6" x 7' 10" x 6' 9"	n/a	21,200 kg 46,740 lbs
40'	39' 8" x 7' 10" x 6' 9"	n/a	25,980 kg 57,270 lbs
Reefer Containers Specifically for cargo requiring transport at a constant temperature above or below a freezing point.			
20'	17' 10" x 7' 5" x 7' 3"	950 Cu Ft. 26 Cbm	17,290 kg 38,118 lbs
40'	36' 9" x 7' 5" x 7' 3"	1,942 Cu Ft 55 Cbm	25,908 kg 57,120 lbs

TIPS: In addition to the equipment listed above, some steamship lines offer "Platform" containers. These are containers without walls or a ceiling; just the floor. Platforms are used only for out of gauge cargo.

Remember that the max payload weight listed above do not correspond to the permissible weight limits for road and rail transport. Loaded containers rarely weight more than 50,000 lbs gross.

Containers carrying out of gauge, or over-sized cargo are equipped with lashing devices which allow for secure strapping and bracing of the cargo.

Always make sure that containers are free from serious defects like holes, splinters, snags, dents or bulges. All equipment should be clean and free of residue from previous shipments.