

Standard containers

The 40 ft (12 m) container is the most popular container worldwide. Longer container types have become more common, especially in North America. Shorter containers (e.g. 10 ft (3.0 m) containers) are rare.

The following table shows the weights and dimensions of the three most common types of containers worldwide. The weights and dimensions quoted below are averages, different manufacture series of the same type of container may vary slightly in actual size and weight.

		20' container		40' container		45' high-cube container	
		imperial	metric	imperial	metric	imperial	metric
external dimensions	length	20' 0"	6.096 m	40' 0"	12.192 m	45' 0"	13.716 m
	width	8' 0"	2.438 m	8' 0"	2.438 m	8' 0"	2.438 m
	height	8' 6"	2.591 m	8' 6"	2.591 m	9' 6"	2.896 m
interior dimensions	length	18' 10 ⁵ / ₁₆ "	5.758 m	39' 5 ⁴⁵ / ₆₄ "	12.032 m	44' 4"	13.556 m
	width	7' 8 ¹⁹ / ₃₂ "	2.352 m	7' 8 ¹⁹ / ₃₂ "	2.352 m	7' 8 ¹⁹ / ₃₂ "	2.352 m
	height	7' 9 ⁵⁷ / ₆₄ "	2.385 m	7' 9 ⁵⁷ / ₆₄ "	2.385 m	8' 9 ¹⁵ / ₁₆ "	2.698 m
door aperture	width	7' 8 ¹ / ₈ "	2.343 m	7' 8 ¹ / ₈ "	2.343 m	7' 8 ¹ / ₈ "	2.343 m
	height	7' 5 ³ / ₄ "	2.280 m	7' 5 ³ / ₄ "	2.280 m	8' 5 ⁴⁹ / ₆₄ "	2.585 m
volume		1,169 ft ³	33.1 m ³	2,385 ft ³	67.5 m ³	3,040 ft ³	86.1 m ³
maximum gross mass		66,139 lb	30,400 kg	66,139 lb	30,400 kg	66,139 lb	30,400 kg
empty weight		4,850 lb	2,200 kg	8,380 lb	3,800 kg	10,580 lb	4,800 kg
net load		61,289 lb	28,200 kg	57,759 lb	26,600 kg	55,559 lb	25,600 kg

20-ft, "heavy tested" containers are available for heavy goods (e.g. heavy machinery). These containers allow a maximum weight of 67,200 lb (30,480 kg), an empty weight of 5,290 lb (2,400 kg), and a net load of 61,910 lb (28,080 kg).

Types

Various container types are available for different needs:

- General purpose *dry van* for boxes, cartons, cases, sacks, bales, pallets, drums in standard, high or half height
- High cube palletwide containers for europallet compatibility
- Temperature controlled from -25 °C to +25 °C (reefer)
- Open top *bulkainers* for bulk minerals, heavy machinery
- Open side for loading oversize pallet
- Flushfolding flat-rack containers for heavy and bulky semi-finished goods, out of gauge cargo
- Platform or bolster for barrels and drums, crates, cable drums, out of gauge cargo, machinery, and processed timber
- Ventilated containers for organic products requiring ventilation
- Tank containers for bulk liquids and dangerous goods
- Rolling floor for difficult to handle cargo
- Gas bottle
- Generator
- Collapsible ISO
- Swapbody

Numbering

Main article: ISO 6346

Each container is allocated a reporting mark (ownership code) four characters long ending in the letter U, followed by 6 numbers and a check digit.

