

Sea Freight Containers Specifications

Basic dimensions and permissible gross weights of sea freight containers is largely determined by two ISO standards (ISO 1496-1:2013 Series 1 freight containers—Specification and testing—Part 1: General cargo containers for general purposes)

Weights and dimensions of the most common *standardized* types of sea freight containers are given below. Values vary slightly from manufacturer to manufacturer, but must stay within the tolerances dictated by the standards. Empty weight (tare weight) is not determined by the standards, but by the container's construction, and is therefore indicative, but necessary to calculate a net load figure, by subtracting it from the maximum permitted gross weight.

		20' container		40' container		40' high-cube container		45' high-cube container	
		imperial	metric	imperial	metric	imperial	metric	imperial	metric
external dimensions	length	19' 10.5"	6.058 m	40' 0"	12.192 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	8' 0"	2.438 m
	height	8' 6"	2.591 m	8' 6"	2.591 m	9' 6"	2.896 m	9' 6"	2.896 m
interior dimensions	length	19' 3"	5.867 m	39' 5 ⁴⁵ / ₆₄ "	12.032 m	39' 4"	12.000 m	44' 4"	13.556 m
	width	7' 8 ¹⁹ / ₃₂ "	2.352 m	7' 8 ¹⁹ / ₃₂ "	2.352 m	7' 7"	2.311 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"	2.650 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' 6"	2.280 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"	2.560 m	8' 5 ⁴⁹ / ₆₄ "	2.585 m
internal volume		1,169 ft ³	33.1 m ³	2,385 ft ³	67.5 m ³	2,660 ft ³	73.5 m ³	3,040 ft ³	86.1 m ³
maximum gross weight		66,139 lb	30,400 kg	66,139 lb	30,400 kg	68,008 lb	30,848 kg	66,139 lb	30,400 kg
empty weight		4,850 lb	2,200 kg	8,380 lb	3,800 kg	8,598 lb	3,900 kg	10,580 lb	4,800 kg
net load		61,289 lb	28,200 kg	57,759 lb	26,200 kg	58,598 lb	26,580 kg	55,559 lb	25,600 kg